

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter of claims 5, 17-24, 32-35, 45-48, 60-64, 77-80, 116-120, 148, 153-155, and 163-165. Although the Examiner erroneously indicated that claim 149 is rejected, it is clearly allowed since it depends from allowed independent claim 148.

With regard to claims 1-15, originally issued as part of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657, the amendments to claim 1 are administrative in nature. The amendments to claims 2 and 3 are broadening amendments, removing certain limitations from these claims. Claim 4 has been amended to recite the limitation of "at least two different sizes." Support for this amendment is found at col. 5, lines 1-5, of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657. Claim 5 now recites "assembly mechanism" in lieu of "turntable." The amendments to claim 6 are administrative in nature. The amendments to claim 8 and 12 remove the "scheduled locations" limitations. The amendments to claim 10 remove the "assigned locations" limitations. The Amendments made to claims 1-15 in Applicants' response filed on September 30, 2002, are described therein.

Applicants have also made several amendments to several of the reissue claims, as follows:

Claims 30, 32, 44, 58, 96, 104, 114, 140, 144, 148, 154 and 155 remove the "scheduled locations" limitation.

Claims 16, 31, 44, 49, 58, 65, 66, 75, 76, 81, 82, 98, 106, 107, 112, 113, 117, 118, 127, 138, 140, 144, 148, 150, 152, 154, 155, and 156 have been amended to recite that the literature pack is customized. Support is found at least in claim 1, and col. 14, lines 53-60 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

Claim 40 has been amended to delete the "wherein each respective said at least one OCP station receives all the carriers of a rank" limitation.

Claim 43 has been amended to delete the "radio frequency identifier" limitation, and add the "assembly station that receives two or more bottles that are in different ranks of carriers" limitation. Support is found at least at col. 10, line 65 – col. 11, line 6 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

Claim 44 has been amended to delete the “at least one dispensing machine” limitation, and recite “at least two dispensing machines”. Support is found at least in FIG. 1 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

Claim 60 has been amended to delete the “receives the at least one of the plurality of bottles corresponding to the prescription order from said bottle removing mechanism and inserts the at least one of the plurality of bottles corresponding to the prescription order” limitation.

Claim 66 has been amended to delete the “bagging machine inserts the literature pack corresponding to the prescription order” limitation.

Claim 74 has been amended to delete the radio frequency identifier” limitation, and recite “an assembly station that receives two or more bottles that are in different ranks of carriers”. Support is found at least at col. 10, line 65 – col. 11, line 6 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

Claim 77 has been amended to delete the “receives the at least one of the plurality of bottles corresponding to the prescription order from said bottle removing mechanism and inserts the at least one of the plurality of bottles corresponding to the prescription order into the shipping container corresponding to the prescription order” limitation, and recite “receives the at least one of the plurality of bottles corresponding to the prescription order from said bottle removing mechanism and inserts the at least one of the plurality of bottles corresponding to the prescription order”. Support is found at least at col. 9, lines 31-38 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

Claim 82 has been amended to delete the “bagging machine inserts the literature pack corresponding to the prescription order into the shipping container” limitation, and recite “the shipping container further receives a literature pack corresponding to the prescription order”. Support is found at least at col. 9, lines 31-38 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

Claim 85 has been amended to recite “the shipping container identifier comprises at least one of a patient order identification and a mailing address”. Support is found at least at col. 8, lines 36-39 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

Claim 91 has been amended to delete the “filling the prescriptions with at least one bottle corresponding to each of the at least one prescription order” limitation. The last clause of claim 91 has been amended to recite “shipping the container to a customer”. Support is found at least at col. 13, lines 1-3 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

Claim 93 has been amended to recite “further comprising the step of placing the bottles in a bottle carrier capable of holding a plurality of bottles, prior to said counting out and dispensing step”. Support is found at least at col. 5, lines 40 – col. 6, line 5 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

Claim 95 has been amended to recite “wherein the shipping container identifier comprises at least one of a patient order identification and a mailing address”. Support is found at least at col. 8, lines 36-39 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

Claim 96 has been amended to delete the “identifying, by an identification device, the first and second identifiers” limitation. The last clause of claim 96 has been amended to recite “loading at least one of the plurality of bottles and a corresponding literature pack into a shipping container, as determined by at least the first and second identifiers”. Support is found at least at col. 8, line 15 – col. 11, line 67 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

Claim 98 has been amended to recite the present limitation. Support is found at least at col. 8, line 15 – col. 11, line 67 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

Claim 99 has been amended to delete the “wherein each of the at least one dispensing device receives at least one of the plurality of carriers and dispenses pharmaceuticals into the plurality of bottles corresponding to each of the at least one prescription order in accordance with the scheduled locations” and the “organizing the plurality of carriers into ranks of carries” limitations. Support is found at least at col. 6, line 7 – col. 7, line 67 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

Claim 105 has been amended to recite the present limitation. Support is found at least at col. 10, line 61 – col. 11, line 6 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

Claim 106 has been amended to recite the present limitation. Support is found at least at col. 10, line 61 – col. 11, line 6 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

Claim 107 has been amended to recite the present limitation. Support is found at least at col. 10, line 61 – col. 11, line 6 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

The first clause of claim 110 has been amended to delete the “in a bottle carrier” limitation.

Claim 111 has been amended to recite the present limitation. Support is found at least at col. 10, line 61 – col. 11, line 6 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

Claim 112 has been amended to recite the present limitation. Support is found at least at col. 10, line 61 – col. 11, line 6 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

Claim 113 has been amended to recite the present limitation. Support is found at least at col. 10, line 61 – col. 11, line 6 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

The last clause of claim 114 has been amended to recite “a bagging machine that provides a shipping container and receives a literature pack and one or more bottles corresponding to a prescription order”. Support is found at least at col. 12, line 52-65 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

Claim 117 has been amended to recite the present limitation. Support is found at least in FIG. 1 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

Claim 118 has been amended to delete the “said bagging machine inserting the literature pack into the shipping container with the at least one bottle corresponding to the prescription order” limitation.

The first clause of claim 124 has been amended to delete the “positioned in one or more carriers, each carrier having receptacles to receive a plurality of bottles” limitation. Support is found at least at col. 1, line 64-65 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

The first clause of claim 130 has been amended to delete the “positioned in one or more carriers, each carrier having receptacles to receive a plurality of bottles” limitation.

The first clause of claim 135 has been amended to recite “bottles of at least two different sizes”. Support is found at least in FIG. 4B of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

Claim 136 has been amended to delete the “a carrier with multiple bottles of at least two different sizes for receiving dispensed pharmaceuticals” limitation.

The first clause of claim 137 has been amended to delete “each bottle having a first identifier corresponding to a prescription” limitation. The last clause of claim 137 has been amended to recite that “a bagger that presents a shipping container”, and to delete the “for each prescription order into the shipping container” limitation. Support is found at least at col. 12, lines 53-57 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

Claim 138 has been amended to delete the “a carrier with multiple bottles that each receive dispensed pharmaceuticals” limitation. The last clause of claim 138 has been amended to recite that “a bagger that presents a shipping container”, and to delete the “for each prescription order into the shipping container” limitation. Support is found at least at col. 12, lines 53-57 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

The first clause of claim 139 has been amended to delete the “simultaneously,” and “positioned within a carrier” limitations.

The last clause of claim 141 has been amended to delete the “for said order into the shipping container and to insert” limitation.

The last clause of claim 144 has been amended to delete the “a printer that prints a literature pack corresponding to prescription orders” limitation.

The first clause of claim 146, reciting “a plurality of dispensing machines each receiving carriers with bottles and dispensing pharmaceuticals into the prescription bottles corresponding to orders in accordance with the scheduled locations of said prescription bottles in said carriers,” has been deleted.

The last clause of claim 148 has been amended to delete the “order consolidation station to remove” and the “said plurality and pack the bottles of said order in a container with” limitations.

The first clause of claim 150 has been amended to delete the “assigned locations” limitation.

Various amendments have been made to the last clause of claim 152 regarding the shipping container, prescription bottles, and literature pack limitations. Support is found at least at col. 8, line 15 – col. 11, line 67 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

In claim 154, the “printer that prints a literature pack for at least one prescription order” limitation remains in the claim, but is not included as part of the OCP station limitation.

In claim 155, the “printer that prints a literature pack for at least one prescription order” limitation remains in the claim, but is not included as part of the OCP station limitation.

Various amendments have been made to the last clause of claim 156 regarding the “order consolidation station,” the “first and second identifiers,” and the “send the combined at least one literature pack and the at least one bottle to at least one recipient” limitations. Support is found at least at col. 8, line 15 – col. 11, line 67 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

Claim 157 has been amended with regard to the “order consolidation station” limitation. Support is found at least at col. 8, line 15 – col. 11, line 67 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

Claim 163 has been amended to delete the “a bagging machine that receives the at least one of the plurality of bottles corresponding to the prescription order from said bottle removing mechanism

and inserts the prescription order bottles in the shipping container” limitation. Support is found at least at col. 8, line 15 – col. 11, line 67 of U.S. Patent No. 5,771,657.

The Amendments made to the reissue claims in Applicants’ response filed on September 30, 2002, are described therein.

I. Charhut in View of Bailer and Goldberg Does Not Teach the Claimed Invention

In Office Action dated December 10, 2002, the Examiner concedes that U.S. Patent No. 5,208,762 to Charhut does not disclose several features of the claimed invention. In particular, on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner concedes that Charhut “does not show a consolidation packing station, identifier as claimed or literature insert packing means as claimed.” As will be discussed herein, there are also numerous other features recited in the claims that are not taught or suggested by Charhut.

To compensate for the deficiencies of Charhut, the Examiner relies on U.S. Patent No. 5,463,840 to Bailer, and U.S. Patent No. 4,762,553 to Goldberg. Applicants submit that none of the combinations of references that include Charhut, Bailer, and Goldberg render any claims of the present invention obvious.

As stated in MPEP Section 2142 (“Legal Concept of *Prima Facie* Obviousness”):

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, ...the **prior art reference (or references when combined), must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in applicant’s disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991). (emphasis added).**

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner takes the position that “Bailer teaches the basic concept of assembling orders wherein a **literature insert** is assembled **for a particular order** and placed into a carton as a consolidated order.” (emphasis added). The Examiner also takes the position that “Bailer discloses that it is standard to include literature inserts in shipping orders.” With these two statements, it is apparent that the Examiner has both mischaracterized Bailer, and failed to fully consider and account for the features recited in the claims.

In particular, the Examiner has mischaracterized Bailer in that Bailer does not assemble a literature insert “for a particular order.” In fact, Bailer does not teach or suggest that literature packs are “**customized**” in any way, let alone for a particular order, as recited in the claimed invention (see, e.g., claims 16, 30, 91, 96, 104, 110, 114, 126, 132, 135, 137, 139, 141, 152 and 153). For at

least this reason, the Examiner has not established a *prima facie* case of obviousness as set forth in MPEP Section 2142, and must withdraw the rejection of the claims. If it is the Examiner's position that Bailer provides "customized" literature packs for a particular order, as recited in the **claimed invention**, the Examiner is requested to specify where in Bailer such a teaching or suggestion is provided.

Moreover, in contrast to the claimed invention, Bailer is concerned with a very specific problem; namely, that the "operation of the folding machine and of the transfer conveyor, which is set up to open and close the clips as they pass the transfer location, be extremely accurately synchronized with each other." Bailer further states that "[t]he literature packs must be delivered at exactly the right time to the transfer location or the handoff is missed and/or the machine is jammed. Thus if a literature pack slips as it is being transported, the whole system can be brought down." Bailer, col. 1, lines 44-52. Accordingly, Bailer does not provide a teaching or suggestion to make the claimed invention, as required by MPEP Section 2142.

In this regard, Applicants note that the Office Action does not establish, or even assert, that Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, provide a teaching or suggestion to make the claimed invention, as required by MPEP Section 2142. Rather, on page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner makes a factually unsupported assertion that "[i]t would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to provide Charhut with . . . a corresponding literature package . . . as taught by Bailer . . .". In view of the **claimed invention** and the requirements for establishing *prima facie* obviousness as set forth in MPEP Section 2142, it is apparent that the Examiner has not satisfied the initial burden of factually supporting his *prima facie* conclusion of obviousness, which requires the Examiner to specify where Charhut or Bailer provide a teaching or suggestion to combine the two references. Accordingly, and for at least this reason, the Examiner must withdraw the rejection of the claims. In the alternative, Applicants request that the Examiner provide an affidavit under 37 CFR §1.104(d)(2) describing in detail why such obviousness would have existed at the time of the invention, particularly in the absence of a teaching or suggestion in the references to make the claimed invention, as is required by MPEP Section 2142.

With regard to Goldberg, on page 4 of the Office Action the Examiner takes the position that "Goldberg teaches the concept of identifying orders with items and using the identifying labels to

correspond to order codes.” The Examiner also states “Goldberg discloses that a package has the same characterization as the item or items.”

Applicants do not discern how Goldberg pertains to the **claimed invention**. Applicants are not claiming “identifying orders with items and using the identifying labels to correspond to order codes,” as stated by the Examiner on page 4 of the Office Action. Nor are Applicants claiming that “a package has the same characterization as the item or items,” as stated on page 4 of the Office Action. To the extent that the Examiner considers that Goldberg teaches or suggest the claimed invention, Applicants request that the Examiner explain with particularity how Goldberg relates to the **claimed invention**, as required by 37 CFR §1.104(c)(2).

Moreover, and contrary to the Examiner’s assertion, Goldberg does not teach “the concept of identifying orders with items and using the identifying labels to correspond to order codes.” In fact, Goldberg teaches away from this concept. In particular, Applicants refer the Examiner to col. 1, lines 40-46 of Goldberg, which state:

A further **object of the invention** resides in providing a novel method for assembling items to fill orders, and in providing novel order-assembling apparatus, to **avoid the requirement of labeling each item with a designation of an order or an assembly location**, and generally to avoid or ameliorate many of the complications and limitations of known order-assembling apparatus. Goldberg, col. 1, lines 40-46, emphasis added.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the combination of Charhut and Goldberg, with or without Bailer, is improper for at least two reasons. First, as stated in MPEP Section 2143.01, a proposed modification cannot render the prior art unsatisfactory for its intended purpose. Charhut discloses that vials are labeled (see, e.g., col. 3, line 63 – col. 4, line 13, claims 1, 4 and 13, and figures 1, 2, 4, 13, 15, and 16). Accordingly, Charhut would be rendered unsatisfactory for its intended purpose if Charhut was required “to avoid the requirement of labeling,” as taught by Goldberg, particularly since each prescription vial of Charhut would no longer be electronically identifiable.

Second, as stated in MPEP Section 2143.01, the proposed modification cannot change the principle of operation of a reference. Charhut discloses that vials are labeled (see, e.g., col. 3, line 63

– col. 4, line 13, claims 1, 4 and 13, and figures 1, 2, 4, 13, 15, and 16). Charhut also teaches that “[t]he system processes the information and automatically fills one or more vials with one or more drugs, and then automatically labels and caps the vials containing drugs, pursuant to the pharmacist’s order.” (Charhut, col. 1, lines 50-54). Charhut further discloses that:

[i]f the label and the Prescription Fill List information match, then the prescription is transferred to the Prescription Filled Queue 118 with an accumulator area number. Subsequently, the prescription is assigned a status of “pending rotary” and the line scanner routine check is terminated. If an error is detected or if there is no match between the label and the Prescription Fill List information the prescription is transferred to a Prescription Filled Queue 118 with a reject flag. Then the check line scanner routine is terminated. Charhut, col. 11, lines 43-54.

In view of the foregoing, Charhut would be rendered unsatisfactory for its intended purpose if Charhut was required “to avoid the requirement of labeling,” as taught by Goldberg, particularly since each prescription vial of Charhut would no longer be electronically identifiable. Accordingly, it is improper to modify Charhut as taught by Goldberg, since this principle of operation of Charhut would be changed if Charhut was required to operate without vial labels.

In view of the foregoing, Goldberg alone and/or in combination with Charhut and/or Bailer does not teach or suggest the claimed invention. Moreover, there is no motivation combine Goldberg with Charhut and Bailer, as Goldberg would render Charhut unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, and change the principal of operation of Charhut. Accordingly, and for at least these reasons, the Examiner must withdraw the rejection of the claims. In the alternative, Applicants request that the Examiner provide an affidavit under 37 CFR §1.104(d)(2) describing in detail why such obviousness and motivation to combine would have existed, particularly insofar as Charhut would be rendered unsatisfactory for its intended purpose, and the principal of operation of Charhut would be changed, as described above.

Finally, on page 4 of the Office Action, paragraph 2., the Examiner states:

“The test for obviousness is not whether the features of a secondary reference may be bodily incorporated into the structure of the primary reference. . . . Rather, the test is what the combined teachings of those references would have suggested to those of ordinary skill in the art.” *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 425, 208 USPQ 871, 881 (CCPA 1981).

Applicants note that this quotation is taken from MPEP Sections 707.07(f) and 2145, which concern bodily incorporation arguments. Applicants have not made any arguments with regard to bodily incorporation, in this or previous Amendments, and accordingly consider the Examiner’s remarks inapposite with regard to the present Amendment and Applicants’ previously filed Amendments.

In conclusion, and for at least the reasons discussed above, the Examiner has not set forth a *prima facie* case of obviousness, as required by MPEP Section 2142, and must withdraw the rejection of the claims. The combination of features recited in claims 1-165, when interpreted as a whole, is patentably distinguished over the prior art, as will now be discussed in further detail.

A. Claims 1-3

Independent claim 1 recites a combination of features directed to an automatic prescription filling and dispensing system. As recited by claim 1, the system comprises, inter alia, “one or more pill dispensing machines to automatically count out and simultaneously dispense pills into two or more prescription bottles in accordance with prescription orders.” The system also comprises “means to print literature packs **customized** to said prescription orders.” (emphasis added). In addition, the system comprises an “order consolidation means to present a shipping container for each prescription order, to insert the one or more prescription bottle for each prescription order into a shipping container and to insert, separately from any prescription bottle inserted into the shipping container, the literature pack for the prescription order into such shipping container.” Finally, claim 1 recites that the literature pack and each prescription bottle have “an identifier identified by at least one identification system to ensure that the shipping container contains the one or more prescription bottles for the prescription order and the corresponding literature pack.” This combination of

features recited in claim 1, when interpreted as a whole, is submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest at least the combination of elements recited above. Without conceding that any reference discloses or suggests any of the elements recited in claim 1, each reference absolutely fails to teach or suggest, in addition, at least the feature of printing a literature pack customized to a prescription order, or the feature of a literature pack being inserted separately from a bottle for a prescription order. In fact, none of these references disclose *anything* with regard to a literature pack being associated with a bottle of a prescription order. In this regard, Bailer discloses a generic literature package being inserted into a pocket or holder (see, e.g., col. 4, lines 21-23), and has nothing to do with printing literature packages, let alone printing “literature packs customized to said prescription orders,” as recited in the claimed invention. In this regard, Charhut also does not teach or suggest that the literature pack and each prescription bottle have “an identifier identified by at least one identification system to ensure that the shipping container contains the one or more prescription bottles for the prescription order and the corresponding literature pack.” Other features are also clearly absent from a cursory inspection of Charhut, Bailer and Goldberg. Finally, since several features are missing, the combination of features are also submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 2-3 are not only allowable by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 1, but also because of additional features they recite. Claim 3, for example, recites that “the bottle identifiers are applied to said prescription bottles prior to dispensing pharmaceuticals into the bottles,” which is not taught or suggested by Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg. In fact, Charhut teaches away from the claimed invention in this regard insofar as Charhut teaches that vials are labeled “during or immediately following filling.” (col. 4, lines 1-4).

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the combination of features recited in each of claims 1-3 is patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner when each respective claim is interpreted as a whole. Accordingly, Applicants request that claims 1-3 be passed to issue.

B. Claims 4, 6 and 7

Independent claim 4 recites a combination of features directed to a prescription dispensing and packing system. As recited by claim 4, the system comprises, inter alia, “a plurality of bottle carriers each having receptacles to receive a plurality of pill bottles of at least two different sizes.” The system also comprises “means to receive orders for prescriptions,” and “means to load prescription bottles corresponding to the prescriptions of said orders into said carriers.” In addition, the system comprises “a prescription pill dispensing machine,” and “means to transport said carriers with said prescription bottles through said dispensing machine, said dispensing machine dispensing the pills of said orders into the bottles in said carriers.” The system further comprises “order consolidation means receiving carriers from said dispensing machine and presenting shipping containers to be filled, printing a literature pack corresponding to prescription orders, and loading one or more bottles and a corresponding literature pack into a shipping container for each order.” Finally, claim 4 recites that the literature pack and each prescription bottle have “an identifier identified by at least one identification system to ensure that the shipping container contains the one or more bottles corresponding to the prescription order and the corresponding literature pack.”

This combination of features of independent claim 4, when interpreted as a whole, is submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art. Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest at least the combination of elements recited above. Without conceding that Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg disclose or suggest any of the elements recited in claim 4, each reference absolutely fails to teach or suggest at least the feature of an order consolidation means that unloads bottles from “carriers each having receptacles to receive a plurality of pill bottles of at least two different sizes.” (emphasis added). If the Examiner believes Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg teach or suggest, for example, “carriers each having receptacles to receive a plurality of pill bottles of at least two different sizes” as recited in the claimed invention, he is requested to specify, by column and line number and/or Figure number, where such carriers are disclosed.

In addition, Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest a prescription dispensing and packaging system that “loads one or more bottles and a corresponding **customized** literature pack into a shipping container for each order” (emphasis added) or a “prescription bottle having an identifier identified by at least one identification system to ensure that

the shipping container contains the one or more bottles corresponding to the prescription order and the corresponding literature pack.”

Further, Bailer does not compensate for Charhut’s lack of disclosure of a consolidation packaging station. Instead, as noted above, Bailer discloses a generic literature package being inserted into a pocket or holder (see, e.g., col. 4, lines 21-23), and has nothing to do with “customized” literature packages, as recited in the claimed invention. Other features are also clearly absent from a cursory inspection of Charhut, Bailer and Goldberg. Finally, since several features are missing, the combination of features are also submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 6-7 are not only allowable by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 4, but also because of additional features they recite. Claim 6, for example, recites, inter alia, “conveying means organizing said carriers into ranks of a plurality of carriers,” which is not taught or suggested by any combination of Charhut, Bailer and Goldberg.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the combination of features recited in each of claims 4, 6 and 7 is patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner when each respective claim is interpreted as a whole. Accordingly, Applicants request that claims 4, 6 and 7 be passed to issue.

C. Claims 8 and 9

Independent claim 8 recites a combination of features directed to a system for assembling prescription orders. As recited by claim 8, the system comprises, inter alia, “a multiplicity of carriers each having the capability of receiving a multiplicity of prescription bottles.” The system also comprises “means to assemble a plurality of carriers at said order and packing station, and packing means at said order and consolidation station to remove the prescription bottles of said order from the carriers and pack the bottles of said order in a container with a customized literature pack, the customized literature pack and each prescription bottle having an identifier identified by at least one identification system to ensure that the one or more prescription bottles associated with a corresponding prescription order are inserted into a shipping container with the corresponding customized literature pack.”

This combination of features of independent claim 8, when interpreted as a whole, is submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art. Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest at least the combination of elements recited above. Without conceding that Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, disclose or suggest any of the elements recited in claim 8, each reference absolutely fails to teach or suggest, in addition, at least a prescription dispensing system having “a multiplicity of carriers each having the capability of receiving a multiplicity of prescription bottles.” (emphasis added). In this regard, and as noted above, the Examiner’s assertion that that the carriers recited in the claimed invention correspond to the conveyors 24a, 24b, and 24c disclosed in Charhut cannot possibly be correct. If the Examiner believes Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, teach or suggest “a multiplicity of carriers each having the capability of receiving a multiplicity of prescription bottles” as recited in the claimed invention, he is requested to specify, by column and line number and/or Figure number, where such carriers are disclosed.

In addition, Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest that the customized literature pack and each prescription bottle have “an identifier identified by at least one identification system to ensure that the one or more prescription bottles associated with a corresponding prescription order are inserted into a shipping container with the corresponding **customized** literature pack.” (emphasis added). Other features are also clearly absent from a cursory

inspection of Charhut, Bailer and Goldberg. Finally, since several features are missing, the combination of features are also submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claim 9 is not only allowable by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 8, but also because of additional features it recites. Claim 9 recites, inter alia, “means to print literature for said order.” Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not disclose one or more printers 31 integrated with the system, as shown in Figure 2 of U.S. 5,771,657.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the combination of features recited in each of claims 8 and 9 is patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner when each respective claim is interpreted as a whole. Accordingly, Applicants request that claims 8 and 9 be passed to issue.

D. Claims 10 and 11

Independent claim 10 recites a combination of features directed to a system for sorting prescriptions by prescription order. As recited by claim 10, the system comprises, inter alia, “a carrier having the capability of receiving a multiplicity of prescription bottles.” The system also comprises “means responsive to a prescription of an order to provide one or more prescription bottles filled with pharmaceuticals.” The system comprises “an order consolidation and packing station comprising means to receive said carrier and remove said one or more prescription bottles from said carrier and pack said one or more prescription bottles and a corresponding literature pack in a container.” Finally, claim 10 recites that the literature pack and each prescription bottle have “an identifier identified by at least one identification system to ensure that the one or more prescription bottles associated with a corresponding prescription order are inserted into the shipping container with the corresponding customized literature pack.”

This combination of features of independent claim 10, when interpreted as a whole, is submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art. Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest at least the combination of elements recited above. Without conceding that Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg disclose or suggest any of the elements recited in claim 10, each reference absolutely fails to teach or suggest at least the feature of “a carrier having the capability of receiving a multiplicity of prescription bottles.” (emphasis added). In this regard, and as noted

above, the Examiner's assertion that that the carriers recited in the claimed invention correspond to the conveyors 24a, 24b, and 24c disclosed in Charhut cannot possibly be correct. If the Examiner believes Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, teach or suggest "a carrier having the capability of receiving a multiplicity of prescription bottle" as recited in the claimed invention, he is requested to specify, by column and line number and/or Figure number, where such carriers are disclosed.

In addition, Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest that the customized literature pack and each prescription bottle have "an identifier identified by at least one identification system to ensure that the one or more prescription bottles associated with a corresponding prescription order are inserted into the shipping container with the corresponding **customized** literature pack." (emphasis added). Other features are also clearly absent from a cursory inspection of Charhut, Bailer and Goldberg. Finally, since several features are missing, the combination of features are also submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claim 11 is not only allowable by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 10, but also because of additional features it recites. Claim 11 recites, inter alia, "means to print literature corresponding to said order." As noted above, Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not disclose one or more printers 31 integrated with the system, as shown in Figure 2 of U.S. 5,771,657.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the combination of features recited in each of claims 10 and 11 is patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner when each respective claim is interpreted as a whole. Accordingly, Applicants request that claims 10 and 11 be passed to issue.

E. Claims 12-15

Independent claim 12 recites a combination of features directed to method of sorting prescription bottles by prescription order. As recited in claim 12, the method comprises the step of, inter alia, “placing the one or more prescription bottles of each order in carriers, each carrier having a multiplicity of locations to receive prescription bottles.” The method also comprises the step of “removing the one or more prescription bottles from the carriers in accordance with said record and placing the one or more prescription bottles and a corresponding customized literature pack of each order in a container.” In addition, the method comprises the steps of “identifying one or more prescription bottles corresponding to each order,” and “maintaining a record for each order of the identification of the carriers containing the one or more prescription bottles of each order.” This combination of features of independent claim 12, when interpreted as a whole, is submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest at least the combination of steps recited above. Without conceding that Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg disclose or suggest any of the steps recited in claim 12, each reference absolutely fails to teach or suggest at least the step of “placing the one or more prescription bottles of each order in carriers, each carrier having a multiplicity of locations to receive prescription bottles,” as recited in the claimed invention. (emphasis added). In fact, none of these references disclose *anything* with regard to carriers containing prescription bottles. In this regard, and as noted above, the Examiner’s assertion that that the carriers recited in the claimed invention correspond to the conveyors 24a, 24b, and 24c disclosed in Charhut cannot possibly be correct. If the Examiner believes Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the step of “placing the prescription bottles of each order in carriers, each carrier having a multiplicity of locations to receive prescription bottles” as recited in the claimed invention, he is requested to specify, by column and line number and/or Figure number, where such step and/or carriers are disclosed.

In addition, Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest “placing the one or more prescription bottles and a corresponding **customized** literature pack of each order in a container.” (emphasis added). Other features are also clearly absent from a cursory

inspection of Charhut, Bailer and Goldberg. Finally, since several features are missing, the combination of features are also submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 13-15 are not only allowable by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 12, but also because of additional features they recite. Claims 14 recites that the “identifier is applied to each of the one or more bottles prior to filling said prescription bottles with pills,” which is not taught or suggested by Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the combination of features recited in each of claims 12-15 is patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner when each respective claim is interpreted as a whole. Accordingly, Applicants request that claims 12-15 be passed to issue.

F. Independent Claim 16

Independent claim 16 recites a combination of features directed to an automatic prescription filling and dispensing system. As recited by claim 16, the system comprises, inter alia, “at least one order consolidation and packing (OCP) station.” The OCP station “presents a shipping container for each prescription order,” and “inserts at least one bottle for each prescription order into the shipping container and inserts a **corresponding customized literature pack** for each prescription order into the shipping container.” (emphasis added). In addition, claim 16 recites that the customized literature pack and each of the at least one bottle have “at least one corresponding identifier identified by at least one identification system to ensure that the shipping container contains the at least one bottle associated with the prescription order and the corresponding **customized literature pack**.” (emphasis added). This combination of features of independent claim 16, when interpreted as a whole and in combination with the other limitations recited in claim 16, is submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest at least the combination of elements recited above. Without conceding that Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg disclose or suggest any of the elements recited in claim 16, each reference absolutely fails to teach or suggest, in addition, at least the feature of any form a printer for printing a **customized literature pack**. As noted above, each reference absolutely fails to teach or suggest, in addition, at least the feature of

printing a **customized literature pack corresponding** to a prescription order. In fact, none of these references disclose *anything* with regard to a customized literature pack being associated with a prescription order. In this regard, Bailer discloses a generic literature package being inserted into a pocket or holder (see, e.g., col. 4, lines 21-23), and has nothing to do with printing literature packages, let alone printing literature packages corresponding to a prescription order, as recited in the claimed invention. In this regard, Charhut also does not teach or suggest that the literature pack and each bottle have “at least one corresponding identifier identified by at least one identification system to ensure that the shipping container contains the at least one bottle associated with the prescription order and the corresponding literature pack.” Other features are also clearly absent from a cursory inspection of Charhut, Bailer and Goldberg. Finally, since several features are missing, the combination of features are also submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the combination of features recited in claim 16 is patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner when claim 16 is interpreted as a whole. Accordingly, Applicants request that claim 16 be passed to issue.

G. Claims 30, 31 and 36-43

Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest at least the combination of elements recited in claim 30. Without conceding that Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg disclose or suggest any of the elements recited in claim 30, each reference absolutely fails to teach or suggest, in addition, a prescription dispensing system having “a plurality of carriers, each having receptacles to receive a plurality of bottles,” as recited in the claimed invention. (emphasis added). In fact, none of these references disclose *anything* with regard to carriers containing prescription bottles. In this regard, and as noted above, the Examiner’s assertion that that the carriers recited in the claimed invention correspond to the conveyors 24a, 24b, and 24c disclosed in Charhut cannot possibly be correct. If the Examiner believes that Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg teach or suggest “a plurality of carriers, each having receptacles to receive a plurality of bottles” as recited in the claimed invention, he is requested to specify, by column and line number and/or Figure number, where such step and carriers are disclosed.

In addition, Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest, in addition, at least the feature of “loading at least one of the plurality of bottles and a corresponding **customized literature pack** corresponding to a prescription order into a shipping container, the **customized literature pack** and each of the bottles having at least one corresponding identifier identified by at least one identification system to ensure that each of one or more bottles associated with the corresponding prescription order are inserted into the shipping container with the corresponding **customized literature pack,**” in combination with other claimed limitations. (emphasis added). Charhut merely places a bin on a conveyor 24a, 24b, 24c. (col. 13:50-57). Charhut does not dispose of any items in a shipping container. Bailer, as noted above, places a generic literature package into a pocket or holder (see, e.g., col. 4, lines 21-23). The literature packages of Bailer do not have an “identifier identified by at least one identification system,” as recited in the claimed invention. Other features are also clearly absent from a cursory inspection of Charhut, Bailer and Goldberg. Finally, since several features are missing, the combination of features are also submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art.

With regard to dependent claim 31, Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest that the “customized literature pack is inserted into the shipping container

separately from the bottles,” particularly in combination with other claimed limitations as discussed with regard to claim 30. It is therefore respectfully submitted that dependent claim 31 is allowable over the art of record.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 36-43 are not only allowable by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 30, but also because of additional features they recite. Claim 38, for example, recites that “the shipping container has an identifier affixed thereto corresponding to each of the at least one prescription orders,” which is neither taught nor suggested by Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination. Claim 40 recites that the transport devices organize the bottle carriers into “ranks of carriers.” Applicants find nothing in any of these references with regard to a dispensing machine receiving “ranks of carriers,” particularly when taken in combination with the limitations recited in claim 30. Claim 41 recites additional details with regard to the shipping container. Applicants find nothing in any of these references that teaches or suggests the features of the claimed invention recited in claims 41.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the combination of features recited in each of claims 30, 31 and 36-43 is patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner when each respective claim is interpreted as a whole. Accordingly, Applicants request that claims 30, 31 and 36-43 be passed to issue.

H. Claims 44 and 49-57

Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest at least the combination of elements recited in claim 44. Without conceding that Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg disclose or suggest any of the elements recited in claim 44, each reference absolutely fails to teach or suggest, in addition, a prescription dispensing system having “[a]t least one carrier, each having receptacles to receive at least one bottle,” as recited in the claimed invention. (emphasis added). In fact, none of these references disclose *anything* with regard to carriers containing prescription bottles. In this regard, and as noted above, the Examiner’s assertion that that the carriers recited in the claimed invention correspond to the conveyors 24a, 24b, and 24c disclosed in Charhut cannot possibly be correct. If the Examiner believes that Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg teach or suggest “[a]t least one carrier, each having receptacles to receive at least one bottle,” as recited in the claimed

invention, he is requested to specify, by column and line number and/or Figure number, where such step and carriers are disclosed.

In addition, Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest, in addition, at least the feature of “at least one dispensing machine responsive to at least one prescription order comprising at least one prescription to fill one or more bottles in any of said at least one carrier with pharmaceuticals in accordance with the at least one prescription order,” or the feature of “at least one order consolidation and packing (OCP) station at which the one or more bottles corresponding to a prescription order are unloaded from said at least one carrier and placed in a shipping container with a **customized literature pack** corresponding to the prescription order,” each as recited in the claimed invention. (emphasis added).

In addition, Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest that the one or more bottles and the literature pack have “at least one corresponding identifier identified by at least one identification system to ensure that the shipping container contains the one or more bottles corresponding to the prescription order and the corresponding customized literature pack.” Finally, since several features are missing, the combination of features are also submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art.

With respect to the rejected dependent claims 49-57, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 49-57 are not only allowable by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 44, but also because of additional features they recite. Claim 49 recites, for example, “printing a customized literature pack for the at least one prescription order,” which is not taught or suggested by Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination.

Claim 45, for example, recites a “shipping container corresponding to the at least one prescription order,” which is not taught or suggested by Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination. Claim 52 recites that “the shipping container has an identifier affixed thereto corresponding to each of the at least one prescription order.” Claim 55 also recites a “shipping container.”

Claim 54, for example, recites “ranks of carriers,” which is not taught or suggested by Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination.

Further, with regard to claim 57, which recites “a radio frequency identifier,” the Examiner states that “radio tags are well known in the art as they are marketed by Texas Instruments, Inc. and disclosed in applicant’s issued patents, such as pat no. 5660305.” However, the mere fact that radio tags are currently marketed is irrelevant. Further, even if radio tags are well known, that fact alone is irrelevant to the claimed invention of an automatic prescription filling system. **Finally, in their response to the Office Action dated November 5, 2001, Applicants have indicated that U.S. 5,660,305 is not prior art with respect to the present application since the ‘305 patent and the present application were commonly owned at the time of the present invention. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to provide a prior art reference to support the Examiner’s position with regard to radio frequency identification tags pursuant to MPEP §2144.03, or an affidavit under 37 C.F.R. §1.104 (d)(2). In the absence of either, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 57.**

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the combination of features recited in each of claims 44 and 49-57 is patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner when these claims are interpreted as a whole. Accordingly, Applicants request that claims 44 and 49-57 be passed to issue.

I. Claims 58, 59 and 65-74

Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest at least the combination of elements recited in claim 58. Without conceding that Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg disclose or suggest any of the elements recited in claim 58, each reference absolutely fails to teach or suggest, in addition, a prescription dispensing system having “[a] plurality of carriers, each having receptacles to receive a plurality of bottles,” as recited in the claimed invention. (emphasis added). In fact, none of these reference disclose *anything* with regard to carriers containing prescription bottles. In this regard, and as noted above, the Examiner’s assertion that that the carriers recited in the claimed invention correspond to the conveyors 24a, 24b, and 24c disclosed in Charhut cannot possibly be correct. If the Examiner believes Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, teach or suggest “[a] plurality of carriers, each having receptacles to receive a plurality of bottles,” as recited in the claimed invention, he is requested to specify, by column and line number and/or Figure number, where such step and carriers are disclosed.

In addition, and without conceding that Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest any of the elements recited in claim 58, each reference absolutely fails to teach or suggest, in addition, at least the feature of “at least one order consolidation and packing (OCP) station that receives said plurality of carriers from said at least one dispensing machine and presents shipping containers to be filled.” Also, none of these references teach or suggest anything with regard to literature packs, which is also recited in claim 58.

In addition, Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest that the **customized literature pack** and each of the at least one bottle “have at least one corresponding identifier identified by at least one identification system so that the shipping container receives the at least one bottle and the **customized literature pack** corresponding to the prescription order.” (emphasis added). Other features are also clearly absent from a cursory inspection of Charhut, Bailer and Goldberg. Finally, since several features are missing, the combination of features are also submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 59 and 65-74 are not only allowable by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 58, but also because of additional features they recite. Claim 59 for example, recites that an order consolidation and packing station “determines which of the at least one bottle is inserted in each respective shipping container from the respective literature pack identifier and respective prescription bottle identifier,” which is not taught or suggested by Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination. Claim 71, for example, recites “ranks of carriers,” which is not taught or suggested by Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination.

Further, with regard to claim 74, which recites “a radio frequency identifier,” the Examiner states that “radio tags are well known in the art as they are marketed by Texas Instruments, Inc.” However, the mere fact that radio frequency identifiers are currently marketed is irrelevant. Further, even if radio frequency identifiers are well known, that fact alone is irrelevant to the claimed invention of an automatic prescription filling system. **Finally, in their response to the Office Action dated November 5, 2001, Applicants have indicated that U.S. 5,660,305 is not prior art with respect to the present application since the ‘305 patent and the present application were commonly owned at the time of the present invention. Accordingly, the Examiner is**

respectfully requested to provide a prior art reference to support the Examiner's position with regard to radio frequency identification tags pursuant to MPEP §2144.03, or an affidavit under 37 C.F.R. §1.104 (d)(2). In the absence of either, Applicants request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 74.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the combination of features recited in each of claims 58, 59 and 65-74 is patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner when these claims are interpreted as a whole. Accordingly, Applicants request that claims 58, 59 and 65-74 be passed to issue.

J. Claims 75, 76 and 81-90

Without conceding that Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest any of the elements recited in claim 75 each reference absolutely fails to teach or suggest, in addition, at least the feature of “a plurality of carriers, each having receptacles to receive a plurality of bottles,” as recited in the claimed invention. (emphasis added). In this regard, and as noted above, the Examiner's assertion that that the carriers recited in the claimed invention correspond to the conveyors 24a, 24b, and 24c disclosed in Charhut cannot possibly be correct. If the Examiner believes Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, teach or suggest “a plurality of carriers, each having receptacles to receive a plurality of bottles” as recited in the claimed invention, he is requested to specify, by column and line number and/or Figure number, where such carriers are disclosed.

In addition, Charhut, Bailer and Goldberg, alone or in combination, absolutely fail to teach or suggest at least the feature of “at least one order consolidation and packing (OCP) station that receives said plurality of carriers from said at least one dispensing machine and presents shipping containers to be filled.” Finally, Charhut, Bailer and Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest that each of the one or more bottles and the “**customized literature pack**” have “at least one corresponding identifier identified by at least one identification system to ensure that each of the at least one bottles associated with a prescription order is inserted into the shipping container with the corresponding literature pack.” (emphasis added). Other features are also clearly absent from a

cursory inspection of Charhut, Bailer and Goldberg. Finally, since several features are missing, the combination of features are also submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 76 and 81-90 are not only allowable by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 75, but also because of additional features they recite. Claim 76 recites that the “customized literature pack is inserted into the shipping container separately from the bottles.” Claims 81 and 82, for example, recite also recite a “customized literature pack,” which is not taught or suggested by Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination. Claim 87, for example, recites “ranks of carriers,” which is not taught or suggested by Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg.

Further, with regard to claim 90, which recites “a radio frequency identifier,” the Examiner states that radio tags are well known in the art as they are marketed by Texas Instruments, Inc.” However, the mere fact that radio frequency identifiers are currently marketed is irrelevant. Further, even if radio frequency identifiers are well known, that fact alone is irrelevant to the claimed invention of an automatic prescription filling system. Finally, in their response to the Office Action dated November 5, 2001, Applicants have indicated that U.S. 5,660,305 is not prior art with respect to the present application since the ‘305 patent and the present application were commonly owned at the time of the present invention. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to provide a prior art reference to support the Examiner’s position with regard to radio frequency identification tags pursuant to MPEP §2144.03, or an affidavit under 37 C.F.R. §1.104 (d)(2). In the absence of either, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 90.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the combination of features recited in each of claims 75, 76 and 81-90 is patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner when these claims are interpreted as a whole. Accordingly, Applicants request that claims 75, 76 and 81-90 be passed to issue.

K. Claims 91-95

Independent claim 91 recites, inter alia, the step of “printing at least one **literature pack customized** to each of the at least one prescription order, the literature pack having a second

identifier corresponding to the prescription order.” (emphasis added). As noted above, Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not disclose *anything* with regard to a customized literature pack being associated with a prescription order. In particular, Bailer merely discloses a generic literature package being inserted into a pocket or holder (see, e.g., col. 4, lines 21-23), and has nothing to do with printing a customized literature package having an “identifier corresponding to the prescription order,” as recited in the claimed invention. Other features are also clearly absent from a cursory inspection of Charhut, Bailer and Goldberg.

Claim 91 also recites, inter alia, the step of “inserting the literature pack corresponding to each of the at least one prescription order into a shipping container.” Other features are also clearly absent from a cursory inspection of Charhut, Bailer and Goldberg. Finally, since several features are missing, the combination of features are also submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 92-95 are not only allowable by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 91, but also because of additional features they recite. Claim 93, for example, recites the step of “placing the bottles in a bottle carrier capable of holding a plurality of bottles of at least two different sizes.”

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the combination of features recited in each of claims 91-95 is patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner when these claims are interpreted as a whole. Accordingly, Applicants request that claims 91-95 be passed to issue.

L. Claims 96-103

Independent claim 96 recites, inter alia, the step of “providing a plurality of carriers, each having receptacles to receive a plurality of bottles.” (emphasis added). In this regard, and as noted above, the Examiner’s assertion that that the carriers recited in the claimed invention correspond to the conveyors 24a, 24b, and 24c disclosed in Charhut cannot possibly be correct. If the Examiner believes Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the step of “providing a plurality of carriers, each having receptacles to receive a plurality of bottles” and the step of “loading at least one of the plurality of bottles and a corresponding **customized literature pack** into a shipping container,” each as recited in claim 96, he is requested to specify, by column and line number and/or Figure number, where such steps are disclosed. (emphasis added).

Other steps recited in claim 96 are also clearly absent from a cursory inspection of Charhut, Bailer and Goldberg. Finally, since several steps are missing, the combination of steps are also submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 97-103 are not only allowable by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 96, but also because of additional features they recite. Claim 99, for example, recites, inter alia, the step of “organizing the plurality of carriers into ranks of carriers.” Applicants find nothing in Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg with regard to organizing a plurality of carriers into ranks of carriers, particularly when taken in combination with the other limitations recited in the claim. Claim 100, for example, recites “providing a third identifier on the shipping container,” which is not taught or suggested by Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg.

Further, claim 103 recites “a radio frequency identifier.” The Examiner states that “radio tags are well known in the art as they are marketed by Texas Instruments, Inc. and disclosed in applicant’s issued patents, such as Pat. No. 5,660,305.” However, the mere fact that radio tags are currently marketed is irrelevant. Further, even if radio tags are well known, that fact alone is irrelevant to the claimed invention of an automatic prescription filling system. Finally, in their response to the Office Action dated November 5, 2001, Applicants have indicated that U.S. 5,660,305 is not prior art with respect to the present application since the ‘305 patent and the present application were commonly owned at the time of the present invention.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to provide a prior art reference to support the Examiner’s position with regard to radio frequency identification tags pursuant to MPEP §2144.03, or an affidavit under 37 C.F.R. §1.104 (d)(2). In the absence of either, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 103.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the combination of features recited in each of claims 96-103 is patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner when these claims are interpreted as a whole. Accordingly, Applicants request that claims 96-103 be passed to issue.

M. Claims 104-109

Without conceding that Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest any of the elements recited in claim 104, each reference absolutely fails to teach or suggest, in addition, at least the step of “providing a plurality of **carriers**, each having receptacles to receive a plurality of bottles, each having a first **identifier affixed thereto** corresponding to a prescription order comprising at least one prescription.” (emphasis added). In this regard, and as noted above, the Examiner’s assertion that that the carriers recited in the claimed invention correspond to the conveyors 24a, 24b, and 24c disclosed in Charhut cannot possibly be correct. If the Examiner believes Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the step of “providing a plurality of carriers, each having receptacles to receive a plurality of bottles” as recited in the claimed invention, he is requested to specify, by column and line number and/or Figure number, where such carriers are disclosed.

Claim 104 also recites, inter alia, the step of “packing the at least one of the plurality of bottles and a customized literature pack corresponding to the prescription order in a shipping container corresponding to the prescription order.” Nothing in Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, teach or suggest “shipping containers corresponding to shipping orders,” let alone one or more bottles and a literature pack corresponding to the prescription order, as recited in the claimed invention. Finally, since several elements are missing, the combination of elements are also submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 105-109 are not only allowable by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 104, but also because of additional features they recite. For example, with regard to claim 109, which recites “a radio frequency identifier,” the Examiner states that “radio tags are well known in the art as they are marketed by Texas Instruments, Inc. and disclosed in Applicants’ issued patents, such as, Pat. No. 5,660,305.” However, the mere fact that radio tags are currently marketed is irrelevant. Further, even if radio tags are well known, that fact alone is irrelevant to the claimed invention of an automatic prescription filling system. **Finally, in their response to the Office Action dated November 5, 2001, Applicants have indicated that U.S. 5,660,305 is not prior art with respect to the present application since the ‘305 patent and the present application were commonly owned at the time of the present invention.**

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to provide a prior art reference to support the Examiner's position with regard to radio frequency identification tags pursuant to MPEP §2144.03, or an affidavit under 37 C.F.R. §1.104 (d)(2). In the absence of either, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 109.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the combination of features recited in each of claims 104-109 is patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner when these claims are interpreted as a whole. Accordingly, Applicants request that claims 104-109 be passed to issue.

N. Claims 110-113

Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest at least the combination of steps recited in claim 110. Without conceding that Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest any of the steps recited in claim 110, each reference absolutely fails to teach or suggest at least the step of “receiving a plurality of bottles, each having a first identifier affixed thereto corresponding to a prescription of a prescription order comprising at least one prescription, in a bottle **carrier**.” (emphasis added). In this regard, and as noted above, the Examiner's assertion that that the carriers recited in the claimed invention correspond to the conveyors 24a, 24b, and 24c disclosed in Charhut cannot possibly be correct. If the Examiner believes Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, teach or suggest the step of “the step of “receiving a plurality of bottles, each having an assigned location in a bottle carrier corresponding to a prescription order comprising at least one prescription,” as recited in the claimed invention, he is requested to specify, by column and line number and/or Figure number, where such carriers are disclosed.

In addition, none of the references teach or suggest “using the read identifiers to pack at least one of the plurality of bottles and a corresponding customized literature pack in a shipping container,” or “printing a literature pack customized to a particular prescription order, the literature pack having a second identifier corresponding to the particular prescription order.” Finally, since several steps are missing, the combination of steps are also submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 111-113 are not only allowable by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 110, but also because of additional features they recite. For example, claim 112 recites the step of “inserting, at a first station, at least one literature pack and at least one bottle, each corresponding to a prescription order, into a shipping container, when the prescription bottles are contained within a single rank of carriers.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the combination of features recited in each of claims 110-113 is patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner when these claims are interpreted as a whole. Accordingly, Applicants request that claims 110-113 be passed to issue.

O. Claims 114-115 and 121-123

Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest at least the combination of elements recited in claim 114. Without conceding that Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg disclose or suggest any of the elements recited in claim 114, each reference absolutely fails to teach or suggest at least “a plurality of carriers, each having receptacles to receive a plurality of bottles.” (emphasis added). As noted above, the Examiner’s assertion that that the carriers recited in the claimed invention correspond to the conveyors 24a, 24b, and 24c disclosed in Charhut cannot possibly be correct. If the Examiner believes that Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, teach or suggest, for example, “a plurality of carriers, each having receptacles to receive a plurality of bottles,” as recited in the claimed invention, he is requested to specify, by column and line number and/or Figure number, where such carriers are disclosed.

In addition, none of the references teach or suggest “at least one dispensing machine responsive to said computer that automatically counts and dispenses the type and quantity of pharmaceuticals into the plurality of bottles in accordance with the prescription orders.” Finally, since several elements are missing, the combination of elements are also submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art.

Applicants respectfully submit that dependent claims 115 and 121-123 are not only allowable by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 114, but also because of additional features they recite. Claim 115, for example, recites that “the shipping container has a third identifier affixed

thereto.” Applicants find nothing in any reference with regard to a shipping container, let alone a shipping container with an identifier affixed thereto.

Further, with regard to claim 123, which recites “a radio frequency identifier,” the Examiner states that “radio tags are well known in the art as they are marketed by Texas Instruments, Inc. and disclosed in Applicant’s issued patents, such as Patent No. 5,660,305.” However, the mere fact that radio tags are currently marketed is irrelevant. Further, even if radio tags are well known, that fact alone is irrelevant to the claimed invention of an automatic prescription filling system. **Finally, in their response to the Office Action dated November 5, 2001, Applicants have indicated that U.S. 5,660,305 is not prior art with respect to the present application since the ‘305 patent and the present application were commonly owned at the time of the present invention. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to provide a prior art reference to support the Examiner’s position with regard to radio frequency identification tags pursuant to MPEP §2144.03, or an affidavit under 37 C.F.R. §1.104 (d)(2). In the absence of either, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of claim 123.**

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the combination of features recited in each of claims 114, 115 and 121-123 is patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner when these claims are interpreted as a whole. Accordingly, Applicants request that claims 114, 115 and 121-123 be passed to issue.

P. Claims 124-129

Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest at least the combination of elements recited in claim 124. Without conceding that Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg disclose or suggest any of the elements recited in claim 124, each reference absolutely fails to teach or suggest dispensing “at least one prescription into one or more bottles positioned in one or more carriers, each carrier having receptacles to receive a plurality of bottles,” as recited in the claimed invention. (emphasis added). As noted above, the Examiner’s assertion that that the carriers recited in the claimed invention correspond to the conveyors 24a, 24b, and 24c disclosed in Charhut cannot possibly be correct. If the Examiner believes Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, teach or suggest, for example, dispensing “at least one prescription into one or more bottles

positioned in one or more carriers, each carrier having receptacles to receive a plurality of bottles,” he is requested to specify, by column and line number and/or Figure number, where such carriers are disclosed.

In addition, claim 124 recites “reading electronically the **customized literature pack** and bottle identifiers,” and “using the read identifier information to pack at least one of the plurality of bottles and a corresponding **customized literature pack** in a shipping container corresponding to the prescription order.” (emphasis added). Applicants do not find any teaching in Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg regarding these features. Since several elements are missing, the combination of elements is also submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art.

With respect to the rejected dependent claims 125-129, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are not only allowable by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 124, but also because of additional features they recite. Claim 128, for example, recites the step of “providing a third identifier on the shipping container.” Applicants find nothing in any reference with regard to printing literature packs corresponding to the prescription order.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that the combination of features recited in each of claims 124-129 is patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner when these claims are interpreted as a whole. Accordingly, Applicants request that claims 124-129 be passed to issue.

Q. Claims 130-134

Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest at least the combination of elements recited in claim 130. Without conceding that Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg disclose or suggest any of the elements recited in claim 130, each reference absolutely fails to teach or suggest dispensing “at least one prescription into one or more bottles positioned in one or more **carriers, each carrier having receptacles to receive a plurality of bottles,**” as recited in the claimed invention. (emphasis added). As noted above, the Examiner’s assertion that that the carriers recited in the claimed invention correspond to the conveyors 24a, 24b, and 24c disclosed in Charhut cannot possibly be correct. If the Examiner believes that Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, teach or suggest, for example, dispensing “at least one prescription into one or more bottles positioned in one or more carriers, each carrier having receptacles to receive a plurality of

bottles,” he is requested to specify, by column and line number and/or Figure number, where such carriers are disclosed. Since several elements are missing, the combination of elements are also submitted to patentably distinguish over the prior art.

In addition, claims 130 has been amended to recite “reading electronically, by respective literature pack and prescription bottle readers, the **customized literature pack** and bottle identifiers,” and “packaging at least one of the plurality of bottles and a **customized literature pack** corresponding to prescription orders in containers.” Applicants do not find any teaching or suggestion in Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, regarding these limitations. (emphasis added).

Accordingly, and for at least this reason, Applicants submit that the combination of features recited in each of claims 130-134 is patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner when these claims are interpreted as a whole. Accordingly, Applicant requests that claims 130-134 be passed to issue.

R. Claim 135

Claim 135 recites the steps of “printing a **literature pack customized to each of a particular prescription order**” and “packaging at least one of the plurality of bottles and a literature pack corresponding to prescription orders in containers, thereby providing individual prescription orders for shipping to customers.” (emphasis added). Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest these steps. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 135 is allowable over the art of record, when interpreted as a whole. Accordingly, Applicants request that claim 135 be passed to issue.

S. Claim 136

Claim 136 recites “a carrier with multiple bottles of at least two different sizes for receiving dispensed pharmaceuticals,” and “at least one order consolidation and packing (OCP) station at which at least one or more bottles corresponding to a prescription order are unloaded from said carrier and placed in a shipping container with a **customized literature pack** corresponding to the prescription order, each of the one or more bottles and the **customized literature pack** having an identifier read by an identification reader to ensure that each of the one or more bottles associated with a prescription order is inserted into the shipping container with the corresponding **customized literature pack**.” (emphasis added). Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest these features. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 136 is allowable over the art of record, when interpreted as a whole. Accordingly, Applicants request that claim 136 be passed to issue.

T. Claim 137

Claim 137 recites “at least one printer for printing **literature packs customized to a prescription order** comprising one or more prescriptions,” and “a bagger that presents a shipping container for each prescription order and receives in the shipping container at least one bottle and a corresponding **customized literature pack**, each of the one or more bottles and the **customized literature pack** having an identifier that can be read electronically read to ensure that each of the one or more bottles associated with a prescription order is inserted into the shipping container with the corresponding **customized literature pack**.” (emphasis added). Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest these features. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 137 is allowable over the art of record, when interpreted as a whole. Accordingly, Applicants request that claim 137 be passed to issue.

U. Claim 138

Claim 138 recites “a bagger that presents a shipping container for each prescription order and receives in the shipping container at least one bottle and a corresponding **customized literature pack**, each of the one or more bottles and the **customized literature pack** having an identifier that can be read by respective literature pack and prescription bottle readers to ensure that each of the one or more bottles associated with a prescription order is inserted into the shipping container with the corresponding **customized literature pack**.” (emphasis added). Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest these features. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 138 is allowable over the art of record, when interpreted as a whole. Accordingly, Applicants request that claim 138 be passed to issue.

V. Claim 139

Claim 139 recites “at least one printer for printing **literature packs customized to a prescription order** associated with each of the at least two bottles,” and “at least one order consolidation and packing (OCP) station that presents a shipping container for each prescription order and inserts at least one bottle for each prescription order into the shipping container and inserts a corresponding **customized literature pack** for each prescription order into the shipping container,

each of the one or more bottles and the **customized literature pack** having an identifier to ensure that each of the one or more bottles associated with a prescription order is inserted into the shipping container with the corresponding **customized literature pack**.”(emphasis added). Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest these features. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 139 is allowable over the art of record, when interpreted as a whole.

Accordingly, Applicants request that claim 139 be passed to issue.

W. Claim 140

Claim 140 recites “each of the one or more bottles and a **customized literature pack** having an identifier read by respective literature pack and prescription bottle readers to ensure that each of the one or more bottles associated with a prescription order is inserted into the shipping container with the corresponding **customized literature pack**.”(emphasis added). Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest these features. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 140 is allowable over the art of record, when interpreted as a whole. Accordingly, Applicants request that claim 140 be passed to issue.

X. Claims 141-143

Claim 141 recites “a printer to print one or more literature packs customized to said prescription orders,” and “an order consolidation station to present a shipping container for each order, to insert the one or more prescription bottles and one or more **customized literature packs** for said order into the shipping container, the one or more **customized literature packs** and the one or more prescription bottles having indicia read by a respective literature pack reader and a respective prescription bottle label reader associated with said order consolidation station to ensure that the one or more prescription bottles associated with said order are inserted into the shipping container with the one or more **customized literature packs**.” (emphasis added). Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest these features. It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claim 141, and dependent claims 142 and 143, are allowable over the art of record, when interpreted as a whole. Accordingly, Applicants request that claims 141-143 be passed to issue.

Y. Claims 144-147

Claim 144 recites an “order consolidation station comprising a bottle removing mechanism that loads bottles and a corresponding **customized literature pack** into a shipping container for each order, the **customized literature packs** and each prescription bottle having indicia electronically read by a respective literature pack reader and a respective prescription bottle indicia reader associated with said order consolidation station to ensure that the one or more prescription bottles associated with a corresponding prescription order are inserted into a shipping container with a corresponding **customized literature pack**.” (emphasis added). Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest these features. It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claim 144, and dependent claims 145-147, are allowable over the art of record, when interpreted as a whole. Accordingly, Applicants request that claims 144-147 be passed to issue.

Z. Claims 148-149

Claim 148 recites an “a bagging machine at said order and consolidation station to remove the prescription bottles of said order from the carriers of said plurality and pack the bottles of said order in a container with a corresponding **customized literature pack**, the **customized literature pack** and each prescription bottle having an identifier read by a respective literature pack identification reader and a respective prescription bottle identification reader to ensure that the one or more prescription bottles associated with a corresponding prescription order are inserted into a shipping container with the corresponding **customized literature pack**.” (emphasis added). Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest these features. It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claim 148, and dependent claim 149, are allowable over the art of record, when interpreted as a whole. Accordingly, Applicants request that claims 148 and 149 be passed to issue.

AA. Claims 150-151

Claim 150 recites an “an order consolidation and packing station comprising an assembly station to receive said carrier and remove said one or more prescription bottles from said assigned location in said carrier and pack said one or more prescription bottles and a corresponding **customized literature pack** in a container, the **customized literature pack** and each of said one or more prescription bottles having an identifier read by a respective literature pack identification reader and a respective prescription bottle identification reader to ensure that the one or more prescription bottles associated with a corresponding prescription order are inserted into the shipping container with the corresponding **customized literature pack**.” (emphasis added). Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest these features. It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claim 150, and dependent claim 151, are allowable over the art of record, when interpreted as a whole. Accordingly, Applicants request that claims 150 and 151 be passed to issue.

BB. Claim 152

Claim 152 recites an “a printer to print one or more **literature packs customized** to said prescription orders” and “an order consolidation station to present a shipping container for each order, the shipping container receiving the one or more prescription bottles and one or more **customized literature packs** for said order, the one or more **customized literature packs** and the one or more prescription bottles having an identifier read by a reader associated with said order consolidation station to ensure that the respective one or more prescription bottles and the one or more **customized literature packs** are inserted into the shipping container.” (emphasis added). Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest these features. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 152 is allowable over the art of record, when interpreted as a whole. Accordingly, Applicants request that claim s 152 be passed to issue.

CC. Claim 154

Claim 154, currently allowed, has been amended to delete the “scheduled locations” limitation. Claim 154 has also been amended so that the “a printer that prints a customized literature pack for at least one prescription order” is not part of the recited OCP. Claim 154 has also been amended to recite that the literature packs are “customized” for a prescription order. Applicants submit that claim 154 recites allowable subject matter, and request that claim 154 again be passed to issue.

DD. Claim 155

Claim 155, currently allowed, has been amended to delete the “scheduled locations” limitation. Claim 154 has also been amended so that the “a printer that prints a customized literature pack for at least one prescription order” is not part of the recited OCP. Claim 154 has also been amended to recite that the literature packs are customized for a prescription order. Applicants submit that claim 155 recites allowable subject matter, and request that claim 155 again be passed to issue.

EE. Claims 156-165

Claim 156 recites an “at least one order consolidation station configured to provide at least one customized literature pack having a first identifier and containing printed customized literature,” and “a bagging machine configured to provide a shipping container that receives the at least one **customized literature pack.**” (emphasis added). Charhut, Bailer or Goldberg, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest these features. It is therefore respectfully submitted that independent claim 156, and dependent claims 152-165, are allowable over the art of record, when interpreted as a whole. Accordingly, Applicants request that claims 156-165 be passed to issue.

II. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that, as described above, the cited prior art does not show or suggest the combination of features recited in the claims. Applicants do not concede that the cited prior art shows any of the elements recited in the claims. However, Applicants have provided specific examples of elements in the claims that are clearly not present in the cited prior art.

Applicants strongly emphasize that one reviewing the prosecution history should not interpret any of the examples Applicants have described herein in connection with distinguishing over the prior art as limiting to those specific features in isolation. Rather, Applicants assert that it is the combination of elements recited in each of the claims, when each claim is interpreted as a whole, that is patentable. Applicants have emphasized certain features in the claims as clearly not present in the claims, as discussed above. However, Applicants do not concede that other features in the claims are also not missing in the prior art. Rather, for the sake of simplicity, Applicants are providing examples of why each of the claims described above are distinguishable over the cited prior art.

For all the reasons advanced above, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections must be withdrawn. Consequently, issuance of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Authorization

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this Amendment, or credit any overpayment to deposit account no. 08-0219.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to deposit account no. 08-0219.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix A
(Marked up version of claims 1-15, and
underlined reissue claims)

1. (Previously Amended). [An automatic] A prescription filling and packing system comprising one or more pill dispensing machines to automatically count out and simultaneously dispense pills into two or more prescription bottles in accordance with prescription orders, means to print literature packs customized to said prescription orders, and order consolidation means to present a shipping container for each prescription order, to insert the one or more prescription bottles for [said] each prescription order into [such] a shipping container and to insert, separately from any prescription bottles inserted into the shipping container, the literature pack for [said] the prescription order into [such] the shipping container, the literature pack and each prescription bottle having an identifier identified by at least one identification system to ensure that the shipping container contains the one or more prescription bottles for the prescription order and the corresponding literature pack.

2. (Previously Amended). The system as recited in claim 1, wherein some of said prescription orders include a plurality of prescriptions, said dispensing [machine] machines dispensing the pills of the prescriptions of a prescription order into separate prescription bottles[, said order consolidation means loading a plurality of prescription bottles of a prescription order containing more than one prescription into a common shipping container with a literature pack for such prescription order].

3. (Previously Amended). [An automatic prescription filling and packing] The system as recited in claim 1 [further comprising means to apply printed prescription labels] wherein the bottle identifiers are applied to said prescription bottles prior to [the insertion of said prescription bottles into a shipping container] dispensing the pharmaceuticals into the bottles.

4. (Twice Amended). A prescription dispensing and packing system comprising a plurality of bottle carriers each having receptacles to receive a plurality of pill bottles of at least two different sizes, means to receive orders for prescriptions, means to load prescription bottles corresponding to the prescriptions of said orders into [scheduled locations in] said carriers, a prescription pill dispensing machine, means to transport said carriers with said prescription bottles through said dispensing machine, said dispensing machine dispensing the pills of said orders into the bottles in said carriers [in accordance with the scheduled locations of the pill bottles in said carriers], order consolidation means receiving carriers from said dispensing machine and presenting shipping containers to be filled, [each shipping container corresponding to an order, said order consolidation means unloading bottles from said carriers,] printing a customized literature pack corresponding to prescription orders, and loading one or more bottles and a corresponding customized literature pack into a shipping [containers corresponding to the orders] container for each order, [said order consolidation means determining each bottle to go in each shipping container from the scheduled location of such bottle in a carrier] the literature pack and each prescription bottle having an identifier identified by at least one identification system to ensure that the shipping container contains the one or more bottles corresponding to the prescription order and the corresponding literature pack.

5. (Twice Amended). A system as recited in claim 4, wherein said order consolidation means comprises [a turntable] an assembly mechanism to receive a plurality of said carriers, a [robotic arm] bottle removing mechanism to unload prescription bottles from the carriers on said [turntable] assembly mechanism and means to transport the bottles unloaded from the carriers into shipping containers.

6. (Three Times Amended). A system as recited in claim 4, , [including a plurality of] wherein said dispensing machines [each receiving] receive said carriers with bottles and [dispensing] dispense pharmaceuticals into the prescription bottles corresponding to orders in accordance with [the] scheduled locations of said prescription bottles in said carriers, conveying means organizing said [carries] carriers into ranks of a plurality of carriers and passing a rank of carriers through said dispensing machines synchronously, said system further comprising a

plurality of said order consolidation means and conveyer means to direct all the carriers of a rank to the same order consolidation means.

7. (Original) A system as recited in claim 4, wherein some of said orders include a plurality of prescriptions, said automatic dispensing machine dispensing each prescription of an order in a separate bottle, said order consolidation means loading a plurality of bottles of an order into a common shipping container.

8. (Twice Amended). A system for assembling prescriptions by prescription order wherein an order may include more than one prescription bottle, comprising a multiplicity of carriers each having the capability of receiving a multiplicity of prescription bottles [in scheduled locations], means responsive to an order to provide prescription bottles filled with pharmaceuticals in accordance with the prescriptions of said patient order in one or more of said carriers, an order consolidation and packing station, means to assemble a plurality of carriers at said order and packing station, and packing means at said order and consolidation station to remove the prescription bottles of said order from the [scheduled locations in the] carriers [of said plurality] and pack the bottles of said order in a container with a corresponding customized literature pack, the customized literature pack and each prescription bottle having an identifier identified by at least one identification system to ensure that the one or more prescription bottles associated with a corresponding prescription order are inserted into a shipping container with the corresponding customized literature pack.

9. (Previously Amended). The system as recited in claim 8 further comprising means to print literature for said order [and pack said literature in said container at said consolidation and packing station].

10. (Twice Amended). A system for sorting prescriptions by prescription order comprising a carrier having the capability of receiving a multiplicity of prescription bottles [in assigned locations], means responsive to a prescription of an order to provide [a] one or more prescription [bottle] bottles filled with pharmaceuticals [in accordance with said prescription in an assigned location in said carrier], an order consolidation and packing station comprising means to receive said carrier and remove said one or more prescription [bottle] bottles from said [assigned location in said] carrier and pack said one or more prescription [bottle] bottles and a corresponding customized literature pack in a container [corresponding to said order], the customized literature pack and each of said one or more prescription bottles having an identifier identified by at least one identification system to ensure that the one or more prescription bottles associated with a corresponding prescription order are inserted into the shipping container with the corresponding customized literature pack.

11. (Previously Amended). A system as recited in claim 10 further comprising means to print literature corresponding to said order and pack said literature in said container.

12. (Twice Amended). A method of sorting prescription bottles by prescription order comprising identifying one or more prescription bottles corresponding to each order, placing the one or more prescription bottles of each order in [scheduled locations in] carriers, each carrier having a multiplicity of locations to receive prescription bottles, maintaining a record for each order of the identification of the carriers containing the one or more prescription [bottle] bottles of each order [and the scheduled location in said carriers of each of the one or more prescription bottles of each order], and removing the one or more prescription bottles from the [scheduled locations in said] carriers in accordance with said record and placing the one or more prescription bottles and a corresponding customized literature pack of each order in a [separate] container.

13. (Previously Amended). A method as recited in claim 12 further comprising applying an identifier to each prescription bottle identifying the prescription in the order corresponding to said prescription bottle.

14. (Previously Amended). A method as recited in claim 13 wherein the identifier is applied to each of the one or more bottles prior to filling said prescription bottles with pills.

15. (Original). A method as recited in claim 13 further comprising filling said prescription bottles after said prescription bottles have been labeled and placed in scheduled locations in said carriers.

16. A prescription filling and packing system comprising:
at least one dispensing machine that automatically counts and dispenses pharmaceuticals
into bottles in accordance with prescription orders comprising at least one prescription;
at least one printer for printing literature packs customized to the prescription orders; and
at least one order consolidation and packing (OCP) station that presents a shipping container
for each prescription order and inserts at least one bottle for each prescription order into
the shipping container and inserts a corresponding literature pack for each prescription
order into the shipping container, the literature pack and each of the at least one bottle
having at least one corresponding identifier identified by at least one identification
system to ensure that the shipping container contains the at least one bottle associated
with the prescription order and the corresponding literature pack.

17. The prescription filling and packing system as recited in claim 16, wherein:

said at least one OCP station comprises:

an assembly mechanism for assembling a plurality of carriers, each having receptacles to receive a plurality of bottles in scheduled locations;

a bottle removing mechanism that removes the at least one bottle corresponding to a particular prescription order from at least one corresponding scheduled location in at least one of the plurality of carriers for subsequent packing of the at least one bottle in the shipping container; and

a bagging machine that receives the at least one bottle corresponding to the particular prescription order from said bottle removing mechanism and inserts the at least one bottle corresponding to the particular prescription order into the shipping container.

18. The prescription filling and packing system as recited in claim 17 wherein said at least one OCP station further comprises a buffer that temporarily stores the plurality of carriers before they are received at said turntable.

19. The prescription filling and packing system as recited in claim 17 wherein each of said at least one dispensing machine receives at least one of the plurality of carriers and dispenses pharmaceuticals into the bottles corresponding to each prescription order in accordance with the scheduled locations of the plurality of bottles in the plurality of carriers, and further comprising at least one transport device that organizes the plurality of carriers into ranks of carriers and passes the ranks of carriers through at least two of said at least one dispensing machine synchronously, wherein each said at least one OCP station receives all the carriers of a rank.

20. The prescription filling and packing system as recited in claim 17 wherein said at least one OCP station further comprises a system that receives the at least one bottle from said bottle removing mechanism and inserts the at least one bottle into said bagging machine.

21. The prescription filling and packing system as recited in claim 20 wherein said system comprises a first wheel that rotates about a vertical axis and receives the at least one bottle from said bottle removing mechanism and a second wheel that rotates about a horizontal axis and receives the at least one bottle from said first wheel and inserts the at least one bottle into said bagging machine.

22. The prescription filling and packing system as recited in claim 17 wherein said bottle removing mechanism comprises a mechanical arm.

23. The prescription filling and packing system as recited in claim 17 further comprising an applicator that affixes the an identifier identified by at least one identification system to each of the at least one bottle.

24. The prescription filling and packing system as recited in claim 23 wherein said applicator affixes the identifier to each of the at least one bottle prior to dispensing pharmaceuticals therein.

25. The prescription filling and packing system as recited in claim 16 wherein the shipping container has an identifier affixed thereto identified by the at least one identification system.

26. The prescription filling and packing system as recited in claim 25 wherein the shipping container identifier comprises a patient order identification.

27. The prescription filling and packing system as recited in claim 16 wherein for each prescription order comprising a plurality of prescriptions, said at least one dispensing machine dispenses each prescription into a separate bottle for each prescription, and said at least one OCP station loads the separate bottles for each prescription into a common shipping container.

28. The prescription filling and packing system as recited in claim 16 wherein the bottles are presented to said at least one OCP station in a plurality of carriers, each having receptacles to receive a plurality of bottles, the plurality of carriers each having an identification affixed thereto to ensure that the correct carrier is presented to said at least one OCP station.

29. The prescription filling and packing system as recited in claim 28 wherein the identification is a radio frequency identifier.

30. A prescription dispensing and packing system comprising:

a plurality of carriers, each having receptacles to receive a plurality of bottles;

a computer that receives prescription orders comprising at least one prescription;

a loading station that loads the plurality of bottles in at least one of said plurality of carriers;

at least one dispensing machine that counts and simultaneously dispenses pharmaceuticals

into at least two of the plurality of bottles;

at least one transport device that transports said plurality of carriers with the plurality of

bottles through said at least one dispensing machine, said at least one dispensing machine

simultaneously dispensing the pharmaceuticals into at least two bottles of the prescription

orders received by said computer into the plurality of bottles in said plurality of carriers;

and

at least one order consolidation and packing (OCP) station that receives said plurality of

carriers from said at least one dispensing machine and presents shipping containers to be

filled, said at least one OCP station unloading the plurality of bottles from said plurality

of carriers and loading at least one of the plurality of bottles and a corresponding

customized literature pack corresponding to a prescription order into a shipping

container, the customized literature pack and each of the bottles having at least one

corresponding identifier identified by at least one identification system to ensure that

each of one or more bottles associated with the corresponding prescription order are

inserted into the shipping container with the corresponding customized literature pack.

31. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 30, wherein said customized literature pack is inserted into the shipping container separately from the bottles.

32. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 30, wherein said at least one OCP station comprises:

an assembly mechanism for assembling said plurality of carriers;

a bottle removing mechanism that removes the at least one of the plurality of bottles corresponding to each of the at least one of the prescription orders from at least one of said plurality of carriers for subsequent packing of the at least one of the plurality of bottles in the shipping container; and

a bagging machine that receives the at least one of the plurality of bottles corresponding to each of the at least one of the prescription orders from said bottle removing mechanism and inserts the at least one of the plurality of bottles corresponding to each of the at least one of the prescription orders into the shipping container.

33. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 32 wherein said at least one OCP station further comprises a carrier buffer that temporarily stores said plurality of carriers before they are received at said turntable.

34. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 32 wherein said at least one OCP station further comprises a star wheel system that receives the at least one of the plurality of bottles from said bottle removing mechanism and inserts the at least one of the plurality of bottles into said bagging machine.

35. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 34 wherein said star wheel system comprises a first star wheel that rotates about a vertical axis and receives the at least one of the plurality of bottles from said bottle removing mechanism and a second star wheel that rotates about a horizontal axis and receives the at least one of the plurality of bottles from said first star wheel and inserts the at least one of the plurality of bottles into said bagging machine.

36. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 30 further comprising at least one printer that prints the identifier for each of the at least one of the plurality of bottles.

37. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 36 further comprising an applicator that affixes the identifier on each of the at least one of the plurality of bottles in accordance with each of the at least one of the prescription orders prior to dispensing pharmaceuticals into the bottles.

38. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 29 wherein the shipping container has an identifier affixed thereto corresponding to each of the at least one prescription orders.

39. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 38 wherein the identifier comprises a patient order identification.

40. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 30 wherein each of said at least one dispensing machine receives at least one of said plurality of carriers and dispenses pharmaceuticals into the bottles corresponding to the at least one of the prescription orders in accordance with the scheduled locations of the plurality of bottles in said plurality of carriers, wherein each of said at least one transport device organizes respective said plurality of carriers into ranks of carriers and passes the ranks of carriers through at least two of said at least one dispensing machine synchronously.

41. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 30 wherein for each of the at least one of the prescription orders comprising a plurality of prescriptions, said at least one dispensing machine dispenses each prescription into a separate bottle for each prescription, and said at least one OCP station loads the separate bottles for each prescription into a common shipping container.

42. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 30 wherein each of said plurality of carriers has an identifier affixed thereto to ensure that the correct carrier is presented to said at least one OCP station.

43. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 40 further comprising an assembly station that receives two or more bottles that are in different ranks of carriers.

44. A system for assembling prescriptions by prescription order, comprising:
at least one carrier, each having receptacles to receive at least one bottle;
at least two dispensing machines responsive to at least one prescription order comprising at
least one prescription to fill one or more bottles in any of said at least one carrier with
pharmaceuticals in accordance with the at least one prescription order; and
at least one order consolidation and packing (OCP) station at which the one or more bottles
corresponding to a prescription order are unloaded from said at least one carrier and
placed in a shipping container with a literature pack corresponding to the prescription
order, each of the one or more bottles and the literature pack having at least one
corresponding identifier identified by at least one identification system to ensure that the
shipping container contains the one or more bottles corresponding to the prescription
order and the corresponding literature pack.

45. The system as recited in claim 44 wherein said at least one OCP station comprises:
an assembly mechanism for assembling said at least one carrier;
a bottle removing mechanism that removes the at least one bottle corresponding to the at
least one prescription order from scheduled locations in said at least one carrier for
subsequent packing of the at least one bottle corresponding to the at least one prescription
order in a shipping container; and
a bagging machine that receives the at least one bottle corresponding to the at least one
prescription order from said bottle removing mechanism and inserts the at least one bottle
in the shipping container corresponding to the at least one prescription order.

46. The system as recited in claim 45 wherein said at least one OCP station further
comprises a carrier buffer that temporarily stores said at least one carrier before said at least one
carrier is received at said turntable.

47. The system as recited in claims 45 wherein said at least one OCP station further comprises a star wheel system that receives the at least one bottle from said bottle removing mechanism and inserts the at least one bottle into said bagging machine.

48. The system as recited in claim 47 wherein said star wheel system further comprises a first star wheel that rotates about a vertical axis and receives the at least one bottle from said bottle removing mechanism and a second star wheel that rotates about a horizontal axis and receives the at least one bottle from said first star wheel and inserts the at least one bottle into said bagging machine.

49. The system as recited in claim 44 further comprising at least one printer for printing the identifier for each of the at least one bottle and for printing a literature pack for the at least one prescription order.

50. The system as recited in claim 49 further comprising an applicator that affixes the identifier on each of the at least one bottle in accordance with the at least one prescription order.

51. The system as recited in claim 50 wherein said applicator affixes the identifier on each of the at least one bottle prior to filling each of the at least one bottle with pharmaceuticals.

52. The system as recited in claim 44 wherein the shipping container has an identifier affixed thereto corresponding to each of the at least one prescription order.

53. The system as recited in claim 52 wherein the identifier comprises a patient order identification.

54. The system as recited in claim 44 wherein each of said at least one dispensing machine receives at least one of said at least one carrier and dispenses pharmaceuticals into each of the at least one bottle corresponding to the respective at least one prescription order in accordance with the scheduled locations of the plurality of bottles in said at least one carrier, and further comprising at least one transport device that organizes said at least one carrier into ranks of carriers and passes the ranks of carriers through at least two of said at least one dispensing machine synchronously, wherein each respective said at least one OCP station receives all the carriers of a rank.

55. The system as recited in claim 44 wherein for each of the at least one prescription order comprising a plurality of prescriptions, said at least one dispensing machine dispenses each prescription comprising a plurality of prescriptions into a separate bottle for each prescription, and said at least one OCP station loads the separate bottles for each prescription into a common shipping container.

56. The system as recited in claim 44 wherein each of said at least one carrier has an identifier affixed thereto to ensure that the correct carrier is presented to said at least one OCP station.

57. The system as recited in claim 56 wherein the identifier is a radio frequency identifier.

58. A prescription dispensing and packing system comprising:
a plurality of carriers, each having receptacles to receive a plurality of bottles;
a computer that receives prescription orders comprising at least one prescription;
at least one loading station that loads the plurality of bottles into said plurality of carriers;
at least one dispensing machine responsive to said computer that counts and simultaneously
dispenses pharmaceuticals into at least two of the plurality of bottles;
at least one transport device that transports said plurality of carriers with the plurality of
bottles through said at least one dispensing machine, said at least one dispensing machine
dispensing the pharmaceuticals of the prescription orders received by said computer into
the plurality of bottles in said plurality of carriers; and
at least one order consolidation and packing (OCP) station that receives said plurality of
carriers from said at least one dispensing machine and presents shipping containers to be
filled, and inserts at least one of the plurality of bottles and a corresponding literature
pack for the prescription order into a shipping container corresponding to the prescription
order, the literature pack and each of the at least one bottle having at least one
corresponding identifier identified by at least one identification system so that the
shipping container receives the at least one bottle and the literature pack corresponding to
the prescription order.

59. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 58 wherein said at least one OCP station determines which of the at least one bottle is inserted in each respective shipping container from the respective literature pack identifier and respective prescription bottle identifier.

60. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 58, wherein said at least one OCP station comprises:

an assembly mechanism for assembling said plurality of carriers;

a bottle removing mechanism that removes the at least one of the plurality of bottles corresponding to the prescription order from at least one corresponding scheduled location in at least one of said plurality of carriers for subsequent packing of the at least one of the plurality of bottles in the shipping container; and

a bagging machine that receives the at least one of the plurality of bottles corresponding to the prescription order from said bottle removing mechanism and inserts the at least one of the plurality of bottles corresponding to the prescription order in the shipping container.

61. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 60 wherein said bottle removing mechanism is responsive to said computer in determining which of the at least one of the plurality of bottles is packed in the shipping container corresponding to the prescription order.

62. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 60 wherein said at least one OCP station further comprises a carrier buffer that temporarily stores said plurality of carriers before they are transferred to said turntable.

63. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 60 wherein said at least one OCP station further comprises a star wheel system that receives the at least one of the plurality of bottles from said bottle removing mechanism and inserts the at least one of the plurality of bottles into said bagging machine.

64. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 63 wherein said star wheel system further comprises a first star wheel that rotates about a vertical axis and receives the at least one of the plurality of bottles from said bottle removing mechanism and a second star wheel that rotates about a horizontal axis and receives the at least one of the plurality of bottles from said first star wheel and inserts the at least one of the plurality of bottles into said bagging machine.

65. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 58 further comprising at least one printer for printing an identifier for each of the at least one of the plurality of bottles and for printing the literature pack for the prescription order.

66. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 65 wherein said shipping container further receives a literature pack corresponding to the prescription order.

67. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 65 further comprising an applicator that affixes one of the prescription labels on each of the at least one of the plurality of bottles in accordance with the prescription order.

68. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 67 wherein said applicator affixes an identifier on each of the at least one of the plurality of bottles prior to insertion of the at least one of the plurality of bottles into the shipping container corresponding to the prescription order carriers.

69. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 68 wherein the shipping container has an identifier affixed thereto corresponding to the prescription order.

70. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 69 wherein the shipping container identifier comprises a patient order identification.

71. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 58 wherein each of said at least one dispensing machine receives at least one of said plurality of carriers and dispenses pharmaceuticals into the at least one of the plurality of bottles corresponding to the prescription order in accordance with scheduled locations of the plurality of bottles in said plurality of carriers, wherein each of said at least one transport device organizes said plurality of carriers into ranks of carriers and passes the ranks of carriers through at least two of said at least one dispensing machine synchronously, and wherein each respective said at least one OCP station receives all the carriers of a rank.

72. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 58 wherein for each prescription order comprising a plurality of prescriptions, said at least one dispensing machine dispenses each prescription into a separate bottle for each prescription, and said at least one OCP station loads the separate bottles for each prescription into a common shipping container.

73. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 58 wherein each of said plurality of carriers has an identifier affixed thereto to ensure that the correct carrier is presented to said at least one OCP station.

74. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 71 further comprising an assembly station that receives two or more bottles that are in different ranks of carriers.

75. A prescription dispensing and packing system comprising:

a plurality of carriers, each having receptacles to receive a plurality of bottles;

at least one loading station that loads at least one of the plurality of bottles into at least one of said plurality of carriers;

at least one dispensing machine that counts and simultaneously dispenses pharmaceuticals into at least two of the plurality of bottles in accordance with prescription orders;

at least one transport device that transports said plurality of carriers with the plurality of bottles through said at least one dispensing machine, said at least one dispensing machine dispensing the pharmaceuticals of the prescription orders into the plurality of bottles corresponding to the prescription orders; and

at least one order consolidation and packing (OCP) station that receives said plurality of carriers from said at least one dispensing machine and presents shipping containers to be filled, said at least one OCP station unloading the plurality of bottles from said plurality of carriers and loading at least one of the plurality of bottles and a corresponding customized literature pack into a shipping container, said at least one OCP station determining which of the at least one of the plurality of bottles and corresponding customized literature pack goes into each shipping container, each of the one or more bottles and the customized literature pack having at least one corresponding identifier identified by at least one identification system to ensure that each of the at least one bottles associated with a prescription order is inserted into the shipping container with the corresponding customized literature pack.

76. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 75, wherein said customized literature pack is inserted into the shipping container separately from the bottles.

77. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 75 wherein said at least one OCP station comprises:

an assembly mechanism for assembling said plurality of carriers;

a bottle removing mechanism that removes the at least one of the plurality of bottles corresponding to the prescription order from at least one corresponding scheduled location in at least one of said plurality of carriers for subsequent packing of the at least one of the plurality of bottles in the shipping container; and

a bagging machine that receives the at least one of the plurality of bottles corresponding to the prescription order from said bottle removing mechanism and inserts the at least one of the plurality of bottles corresponding to the prescription order into the shipping container.

78. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 77 wherein said at least one OCP station further comprises a carrier buffer that temporarily stores said plurality of carriers before they are received at said turntable.

79. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 77 wherein said at least one OCP station further comprises a star wheel system that receives the at least one of the plurality of bottles from said bottle removing mechanism and inserts the at least one of the plurality of bottles into said bagging machine.

80. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 79 wherein said star wheel system comprises a first star wheel that rotates about a vertical axis and receives the at least one of the plurality of bottles from said bottle removing mechanism and a second star wheel that rotates about a horizontal axis and receives the at least one of the plurality of bottles from said first star wheel and inserts the at least one of the plurality of bottles into said bagging machine.

81. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 76 further comprising at least one printer for printing the identifier for each of the at least one of the plurality of bottles and for printing a customized literature pack for the prescription order.

82. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 77 wherein the shipping container further receives the customized literature pack corresponding to the prescription order.

83. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 81 further comprising an applicator that affixes an identifier on each of the at least one of the plurality of bottles in accordance with the prescription order.

84. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 75 wherein the shipping container has an identifier affixed thereto.

85. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 84 wherein the shipping container identifier comprises at least one of a patient order identification and a mailing address.

86. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 83 wherein said applicator affixes the identifier to each of the at least one of the plurality of bottles prior to insertion of the at least one of the plurality of bottles into at least one of said plurality of carriers.

87. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 75 wherein each of said at least one dispensing machine receives at least one of said plurality of carriers and dispenses pharmaceuticals into the at least one of the plurality of bottles corresponding to the prescription order in accordance with the scheduled locations of the plurality of bottles in said plurality of carriers, wherein each of said at least one transport device organizes respective said carriers into ranks of carriers and passes the ranks of carriers through at least two of said at least dispensing machine synchronously, and wherein each respective said at least one OCP station receives all the carriers of a rank.

88. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 75 wherein for each prescription order comprising a plurality of prescriptions, said at least one dispensing machine dispenses each prescription into a separate bottle for each prescription, and said at least one OCP station loads the separate bottles for each prescription into a common shipping container.

89. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 75 wherein each of said at least one carrier has an identifier affixed thereto to ensure that the correct carrier is presented to said at least one OCP station.

90. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 89 wherein the identifier is a radio frequency identifier.

91. A method for filling and packaging a prescription order comprising at least one prescription, comprising one of sequential and non-sequential steps of:
counting out and dispensing pharmaceuticals into at least one bottle in accordance with at least one prescription order, each of the at least one bottles having a first identifier corresponding to a prescription order;
printing at least one literature pack customized to each of the at least one prescription order, the literature pack having a second identifier corresponding to the prescription order;
identifying, by an identification device, the first and second identifiers;
inserting the literature pack corresponding to each of the at least one prescription order into a shipping container; and
shipping the shipping container to a customer.

92. The method as recited in claim 91 further comprising the step of applying an identifier, prior to said counting out and dispensing step, to each of the at least one bottle corresponding to each of the at least one prescription order.

93. The method as recited in claim 92 further comprising the step of placing the bottles in a bottle carrier capable of holding a plurality of bottles of at least two different sizes, prior to said counting out and dispensing step.

94. The method as recited in claim 92 further comprising the step of providing an identifier for the shipping container.

95. The method as recited in claim 94 wherein the shipping container identifier is comprises at least one of a patient order identification and a mailing address.

96. A method of dispensing and packing pharmaceuticals comprising one of sequential and non-sequential steps of:
providing a plurality of carriers, each having receptacles to receive a plurality of bottles;
receiving at least one prescription order, each of the at least one prescription order comprising at least one prescription;
loading at least one bottle, each bottle having a first identifier affixed thereto, corresponding to each of the at least one prescription order into at least one of the plurality of carriers;
transporting the plurality of carriers with the prescription bottles through at least one dispensing device that simultaneously dispenses pharmaceuticals into at least two of the plurality of bottles;
printing one or more literature packs customized to each of said at least one prescription order, the literature packs having a second identifier corresponding to a prescription order; and
loading at least one of the plurality of bottles and a corresponding literature pack into a shipping container, as determined by at least the first and second identifiers.

97. The method as recited in claim 96 further comprising the step of automatically applying a respective first identifier to each of the at least one of the plurality of bottles.

98. The method as recited in claim 97 further comprising the steps of:
organizing the plurality of carriers into ranks of carriers; and
at a first station, inserting at least one literature pack and at least one bottle, each
corresponding to a prescription order, into a shipping container, when the prescription bottles are
contained within a single rank of carriers, and
at a second station, inserting at least one literature pack and at least one bottle, each
corresponding to a prescription order, into a shipping container, when the prescription bottles are
not contained within a single rank of carriers.

99. The method as recited in claim 96 further comprising the step of passing the ranks of
carriers through at least two of the at least one dispensing device synchronously.

100. The method as recited in claim 96 further comprising the step of providing a third
identifier on the shipping container.

101. The method as recited in claim 100 wherein the shipping container identifier comprises
a patient order identification.

102. The method as recited in claim 96 further comprising the step of affixing a fourth
identifier to each of the plurality of carriers to ensure that the correct carrier is received at the at
least one dispensing device.

103. The method as recited in claim 102 wherein the fourth identifiers comprise a radio
frequency identifier.

104. A method of assembling prescriptions by prescription order, comprising one of sequential and non-sequential steps of:

providing a plurality of carriers, each having receptacles to receive a plurality of bottles, each of the bottles having a first identifier affixed thereto corresponding to a prescription order comprising at least one prescription;
providing at least one dispensing device that, in response to a prescription order, fills at least one of the plurality of bottles with pharmaceuticals;
printing literature packs customized to a prescription order, the customized literature pack having a second identifier affixed thereto corresponding to the prescription order;
reading, by respective literature pack and prescription bottle readers, the customized literature pack and bottle identifiers; and
packing the at least one of the plurality of bottles and a customized literature pack corresponding to the prescription order in a shipping container corresponding to the prescription order.

105. The method as recited in claim 104 further comprising the step of organizing the plurality of carriers into ranks of carriers.

106. The method as recited in claim 105 further comprising the step of inserting, at a first station, at least one customized literature pack and at least one bottle, each corresponding to a prescription order, into a shipping container, when the prescription bottles are contained within a single rank of carriers.

107. The method as recited in claim 106 further comprising the step of inserting, at a second station, at least one customized literature pack and at least one bottle, each corresponding to a prescription order, into a shipping container, when the prescription bottles are not contained within a single rank of carriers.

108. The method as recited in claim 104 further comprising the step of affixing a third identifier on each of the plurality of carriers to ensure that the correct carrier is received at the at least one dispensing device.

109. The method as recited in claim 108 wherein the third identifier is a radio frequency identifier.

110. A method for sorting prescriptions by prescription order, comprising the steps of:
receiving a plurality of bottles, each having a first identifier affixed thereto corresponding to
a prescription of a prescription order comprising at least one prescription, in a bottle
carrier;
filling at least one of the plurality of bottles with pharmaceuticals in accordance with the
prescription order;
printing a literature pack customized to a particular prescription order, the literature pack
having a second identifier corresponding to the particular prescription order;
identifying, by an identification device, the first and second identifiers; and
using the read identifiers to automatically pack at least one of the plurality of bottles and a
corresponding literature pack in a shipping container.

111. The method as recited in claim 110 further comprising the step of organizing the
plurality of carriers into ranks of carriers.

112. The method as recited in claim 111 further comprising the step of inserting, at a first
station, at least one literature pack and at least one bottle, each corresponding to a prescription
order, into a shipping container, when the prescription bottles are contained within a single rank
of carriers.

113. The method as recited in claim 107 further comprising the step of inserting, at a second
station, at least one literature pack and at least one bottle, each corresponding to a prescription
order, into a shipping container, when the prescription bottles are not contained within a single
rank of carriers.

114. A prescription dispensing and packing system comprising:

a plurality of carriers, each having receptacles to receive a plurality of bottles, each of the plurality of bottles having a first identifier affixed thereto corresponding to a prescription of a prescription order comprising one or more prescriptions;

printing a literature pack customized to a particular prescription order, the literature pack having a second identifier affixed thereto corresponding to the particular prescription order;

a computer that receives prescription orders;

at least one dispensing machine responsive to said computer that automatically counts and dispenses the type and quantity of pharmaceuticals into the plurality of bottles in accordance with the prescription orders; and

a bagging machine that provides a shipping container and receives a customized literature pack and one or more bottles corresponding to a prescription order.

115. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 114 wherein the shipping container has a third identifier affixed thereto.

116. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 115 wherein said at least one OCP station comprises:

an assembly mechanism for assembling said plurality of carriers;

a bottle removing mechanism that removes at least one bottle corresponding to a prescription order from at least one corresponding scheduled location in at least one of said plurality of carriers for subsequent packing of the at least one bottle in a shipping container corresponding to the prescription order; and

a bagging machine that receives the at least one bottle corresponding to the prescription order from said bottle removing mechanism and inserts the at least one bottle corresponding to the prescription order in the shipping container.

117. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 116 further comprising a printer that prints a customized literature pack for the prescription order.

118. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 116 wherein said computer verifies that the respective bottle and customized literature pack identifiers are associated with the same prescription order.

119. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 116 wherein said at least one OCP station further comprises a star wheel system that receives the at least one bottle from said bottle removing mechanism and inserts the at least one bottle into said bagging machine.

120. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 119 wherein said star wheel system comprises a first star wheel that rotates about a vertical axis and receives the at least one bottle from said bottle removing mechanism and a second star wheel that rotates about a horizontal axis and receives the at least one bottle from said first star wheel and inserts said at least one bottle into said bagging machine.

121. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited claim 114 wherein said at least one dispensing machine fills any of a plurality of bottle sizes with any of a plurality of pharmaceuticals as determined by said computer.

122. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 114 wherein each of said plurality of carriers has fourth identifier affixed thereto to ensure that the correct carrier is presented to said at least one OCP station.

123. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 122 wherein the fourth identifier is a radio frequency identifier.

124. A method of operating a pharmaceutical dispensing line, comprising the steps of:
in a single run, simultaneously dispensing different quantities of different pharmaceuticals in
accordance with at least one prescription order comprising at least one prescription into
one or more bottles positioned in one or more carriers, each carrier having receptacles to
receive a plurality of bottles;
affixing a first identifier to the bottles, corresponding to a prescription of a prescription
order, that identifies the quantity and type of pharmaceuticals contained in each bottle,
thereby providing individual prescription orders for shipping to customers;
filling at least one of the plurality of bottles with pharmaceuticals in accordance with the
prescription order;
printing a literature pack customized to a particular prescription order, the literature pack
having a second identifier affixed thereto corresponding to the particular prescription
order;
reading electronically the customized literature pack and bottle identifiers; and
using the read identifier information to pack at least one of the plurality of bottles and a
corresponding customized literature pack in a shipping container corresponding to the
prescription order.

125. The method as recited in claim 124 wherein the bottles are at least two different sizes.

126. The method as recited in claim 124 further comprising the step of placing in a shipping
container at least one bottle corresponding to a prescription order.

127. The method as recited in claim 126 wherein the customized literature pack is inserted
into the shipping container prior to the at least one of the plurality of bottles.

128. The method as recited in claim 127 further comprising the step of providing a third
identifier on the shipping container.

129. The method as recited in claim 128 wherein the third identifier comprises patient order information.

130. A method of operating a pharmaceutical dispensing line, comprising the steps of:
dispensing, simultaneously in a single run, different quantities of different pharmaceuticals
in accordance with prescription orders comprising at least one prescription into one or
more bottles positioned in one or more carriers, each carrier having receptacles to receive
a plurality of bottles;
affixing automatically to each of the bottles first identifiers that identify the quantity and
type of pharmaceuticals contained in each of the bottles;
filling at least one of the plurality of bottles with pharmaceuticals in accordance with the
prescription order;
printing a literature pack customized to each of a particular prescription order, the literature
pack having second identifiers affixed thereto corresponding to the particular prescription
order;
reading electronically, by respective literature pack and prescription bottle readers, the
customized literature pack and bottle identifiers; and
packaging at least one of the plurality of bottles and a customized literature pack
corresponding to prescription orders in containers, thereby providing individual
prescription orders for shipping to customers.

131. The method as recited in claim 130 wherein the bottles are at least two sizes.

132. The method as recited in claim 131 wherein in said packaging step different size
bottle caps are placed on the bottles in accordance with bottle size.

133. The method as recited in claim 130 wherein said affixing step occurs prior to
dispensing and comprises the step of printing a respective individual identifiers for each of the
bottles.

134. The method as recited in claim 133 wherein said printing step prints at least the name of each individual, in addition to the quantity and type of pharmaceutical, on each of the labels.

135. A method of operating a single pharmaceutical dispensing line, comprising the steps of: in a single run, dispensing simultaneously different quantities of different pharmaceuticals in bottles of at least two different sizes, in accordance with at least one prescription order comprising at least one prescription;

affixing a first identifier, prior to said dispensing step, to each of the bottles that identify the quantity and type of pharmaceuticals contained in each bottle, thereby providing individual prescription orders for shipping to customers;

filling at least one of the plurality of bottles with pharmaceuticals in accordance with the prescription order;

printing a literature pack customized to each of a particular prescription order, the literature pack having a second identifier affixed thereto corresponding to the particular prescription order;

identifying, by an identification device, the first and second identifiers; and

packaging at least one of the plurality of bottles and a literature pack corresponding to prescription orders in containers, thereby providing individual prescription orders for shipping to customers.

136. A prescription dispensing and packing system comprising:

a carrier with multiple bottles of at least two different sizes for receiving dispensed pharmaceuticals;

a computer that receives prescription orders;

at least one dispensing machine responsive to said computer that automatically counts and dispenses the type and quantity of pharmaceuticals into the multiple bottles in accordance with the prescription orders; and

at least one order consolidation and packing (OCP) station at which at least one or more bottles corresponding to a prescription order are unloaded from said carrier and placed in a shipping container with a customized literature pack corresponding to the prescription order, each of the one or more bottles and the customized literature pack having an identifier read by an identification reader to ensure that each of the one or more bottles associated with a prescription order is inserted into the shipping container with the corresponding customized literature pack.

137. An automatic prescription filling and packing system comprising:

at least one dispensing machine that automatically counts and simultaneously dispenses pharmaceuticals into two or more bottles, each bottle having a first identifier corresponding to a prescription, the bottles positioned in a carrier;

at least one printer for printing literature packs customized to a prescription order comprising one or more prescriptions; and

a bagger that presents a shipping container for each prescription order and receives in the shipping container at least one bottle and a corresponding customized literature pack, each of the one or more bottles and the customized literature pack having an identifier that can be read electronically read to ensure that each of the one or more bottles associated with a prescription order is inserted into the shipping container with the corresponding customized literature pack.

138. A prescription dispensing and packing system comprising:
a carrier with multiple bottles that each receive dispensed pharmaceuticals;
a computer that receives prescription orders;
at least one dispensing machine responsive to said computer that automatically counts and
simultaneously dispenses the type and quantity of pharmaceuticals into at least two of the
multiple bottles in accordance with the prescription orders; and
a bagger that presents a shipping container for each prescription order and receives in the
shipping container at least one bottle and a corresponding customized literature pack,
each of the one or more bottles and the customized literature pack having an identifier
that can be read by respective literature pack and prescription bottle readers to ensure that
each of the one or more bottles associated with a prescription order is inserted into the
shipping container with the corresponding customized literature pack.

139. An automatic prescription filling and packing system comprising:
at least one dispensing machine that automatically counts and dispenses pharmaceuticals
into at least two bottles, of at least two different sizes, positioned within a carrier;
at least one printer for printing literature packs customized to a prescription order associated
with each of the at least two bottles; and
at least one order consolidation and packing (OCP) station that presents a shipping container
for each prescription order and inserts at least one bottle for each prescription order into
the shipping container and inserts a corresponding customized literature pack for each
prescription order into the shipping container, each of the one or more bottles and the
customized literature pack having an identifier to ensure that each of the one or more
bottles associated with a prescription order is inserted into the shipping container with the
corresponding customized literature pack.

140. A prescription dispensing and packing system comprising:
a plurality of carriers, each having receptacles to receive a plurality of bottles;
a computer that receives prescription orders comprising at least one prescription;
a loading station that loads the plurality of bottles in at least one of said plurality of carriers;
at least two dispensing machines that count and simultaneously dispense pharmaceuticals
into the plurality of bottles;
at least one transport device that transports said plurality of carriers with the plurality of
bottles through said at least two dispensing machines, said at least two dispensing
machines dispensing the pharmaceuticals of the prescription orders received by said
computer into the plurality of bottles in said plurality of carriers; and
at least one order consolidation and packing (OCP) station that receives said plurality of
carriers from said at least two dispensing machines and presents shipping containers to be
filled, each shipping container corresponding to at least one of the prescription orders,
said at least one OCP station unloading the plurality of bottles from said plurality of
carriers and loading at least one of the plurality of bottles into at least one shipping
container corresponding to at least one of the prescription orders, said at least one OCP
station determining which of the plurality of bottles goes into the at least one shipping
container corresponding to the at least one of the prescription orders from the plurality of
bottles in said plurality of carriers, each of the one or more bottles and a customized
literature pack having an identifier read by respective literature pack and prescription
bottle readers to ensure that each of the one or more bottles associated with a prescription
order is inserted into the shipping container with the corresponding customized literature
pack.

141. An automatic prescription filling and packing system comprising:
one or more pill dispensing machines to automatically count out and dispense pills into one
or more prescription bottles in accordance with prescription orders;
a printer to print one or more literature packs customized to said prescription orders; and
an order consolidation station to present a shipping container for each order, to insert the one
or more prescription bottles and one or more customized literature packs for said order
into the shipping container, the one or more customized literature packs and the one or
more prescription bottles having indicia read by a respective literature pack reader and a
respective prescription bottle label reader associated with said order consolidation station
to ensure that the one or more prescription bottles associated with said order are inserted
into the shipping container with the one or more customized literature packs.

142. The system as recited in claim 141, wherein some of said prescription orders include a
plurality of prescriptions, at least one of said dispensing machines dispensing the pills of the
prescriptions of a prescription order into separate prescription bottles.

143. An automatic prescription filling and packing system as recited in claim 141 wherein
the indicia is applied to said prescription bottles prior to dispensing the pharmaceuticals into the
bottles.

144. A prescription dispensing and packing system comprising:
a plurality of bottle carriers each having receptacles to receive a plurality of pill bottles;
a computer that receives orders for prescriptions;
a loading system that loads prescription bottles corresponding to the prescriptions of said
orders in said carriers;
a prescription pill dispensing machine;
a mechanism that transports said carriers with said prescription bottles through one of a
plurality of dispensing machines, said dispensing machine dispensing the pills of said
orders into the bottles in said carriers;
an order consolidation station that receives carriers from said dispensing machine and
presents shipping containers to be filled, said order consolidation station unloading
bottles from said carriers, said order consolidation station comprising a bottle removing
mechanism that loads bottles and a corresponding customized literature pack into a
shipping container for each order, the customized literature packs and each prescription
bottle having indicia electronically read by a respective literature pack reader and a
respective prescription bottle indicia reader associated with said order consolidation
station to ensure that the one or more prescription bottles associated with a corresponding
prescription order are inserted into a shipping container with a corresponding customized
literature pack.

145. The system as recited in claim 144, wherein said order consolidation station comprises
a turntable to receive a plurality of said carriers and transport the bottles unloaded from the
carriers into shipping containers.

146. The system as recited in claim 144, further comprising a plurality of transport
mechanisms, each receiving one of said carriers, thereby arranging said carriers into ranks of a
plurality of carriers and passing a rank of carriers through said dispensing machines
synchronously, said system further comprising a plurality of said stations, wherein said transport
mechanisms direct all the carriers of a rank to the same station.

147. A system as recited in claim 144, wherein some of said orders include a plurality of prescriptions, said automatic dispensing machines dispensing each prescription of an order in a separate bottle, said station loading a plurality of bottles of an order into a common shipping container.

148. A system for assembling prescriptions by prescription order wherein an order may include more than one prescription bottle, comprising:

a multiplicity of carriers each having the capability of receiving a multiplicity of prescription bottles;

a computer responsive to an order to provide prescription bottles filled with pharmaceuticals in accordance with the prescriptions of said patient order in one or more of said carriers;

an order consolidation and packing station;

an assembly station to assemble a plurality of carriers at said order and packing station; and

a bagging machine at said order and consolidation station to remove the prescription bottles of said order from the carriers of said plurality and pack the bottles of said order in a container with a corresponding customized literature pack, the customized literature pack and each prescription bottle having an identifier read by a respective literature pack identification reader and a respective prescription bottle identification reader to ensure that the one or more prescription bottles associated with a corresponding prescription order are inserted into a shipping container with the corresponding customized literature pack.

149. The system as recited in claim 148 further comprising at least one printer to print literature packs.

150. A system for sorting prescriptions by prescription order comprising:
a carrier having the capability of receiving a multiplicity of prescription bottles;
a computer responsive to a prescription of an order to provide one or more prescription
bottles filled with pharmaceuticals in accordance with said prescription in said carrier;
an order consolidation and packing station comprising an assembly station to receive said
carrier and remove said one or more prescription bottles from said assigned location in
said carrier and pack said one or more prescription bottles and a corresponding
customized literature pack in a container, the customized literature pack and each of said
one or more prescription bottles having an identifier read by a respective literature pack
identification reader and a respective prescription bottle identification reader to ensure
that the one or more prescription bottles associated with a corresponding prescription
order are inserted into the shipping container with the corresponding customized
literature pack.

151. A system as recited in claim 150 wherein the identifier is a bar code.

152. An automatic prescription filling and packing system comprising:
one or more pill dispensing machines to automatically count out and dispense pills into one
or more prescription bottles in accordance with prescription orders;
a printer to print one or more literature packs customized to said prescription orders; and
an order consolidation station to present a shipping container for each order, the shipping
container receiving the one or more prescription bottles and one or more customized
literature packs for said order, the one or more customized literature packs and the one or
more prescription bottles having an identifier read by a reader associated with said order
consolidation station to ensure that the respective one or more prescription bottles and the
one or more customized literature packs are inserted into the shipping container.

153. A prescription filling and packing system comprising:
at least one dispensing machine that automatically counts and dispenses pharmaceuticals
into bottles in accordance with prescription orders comprising at least one prescription;
at least one printer for printing literature packs customized to the prescription orders; and
at least one order consolidation and packing (OCP) station comprising:
an assembly mechanism for assembling a plurality of carriers, each having receptacles to
receive a plurality of bottles in scheduled locations;
a bottle removing mechanism that removes at least one bottle corresponding to a
particular prescription order from a respective scheduled location in at least one of the
plurality of carriers for subsequent packing in a shipping container;
a reader that electronically reads an identifier on each of said at least one bottle and
electronically reads an identifier on the literature pack to ensure that each of the at
least one bottle is inserted into the shipping container with the corresponding
literature pack; and
a bagging machine that receives from said bottle removing mechanism the at least one
bottle, and receives the literature pack corresponding to the particular prescription
order, said bagging machine inserting the at least one bottle and the literature pack
into the shipping container.

154. A system for assembling prescriptions by prescription order, comprising:
at least one carrier, each having receptacles to receive at least one bottle;
at least one dispensing machine responsive to at least one prescription order comprising at
least one prescription to fill one or more bottles in any of said at least one carrier with
pharmaceuticals in accordance with the at least one prescription order; and
at least one order consolidation and packing (OCP) station comprising:
an assembly mechanism for assembling said at least one carrier;
a bottle removing mechanism that removes the at least one bottle corresponding to the at
least one prescription order from the scheduled locations in said at least one carrier
for subsequent packing of the at least one bottle corresponding to the at least one
prescription order in a shipping container;

a printer that prints a customized literature pack for at least one prescription order;
at least one reader that electronically reads a first identifier on each of said at least one bottle
and electronically reads a second identifier on the literature pack corresponding to the
prescription order to ensure that each of the at least one bottle is inserted into the shipping
container with the corresponding literature pack; and
a bagging machine that receives the at least one bottle corresponding to the at least one
prescription order from said bottle removing mechanism and inserts the at least one
bottle and the corresponding literature pack in the shipping container.

155. A prescription dispensing and packing system comprising:
a plurality of carriers, each having receptacles to receive a plurality of bottles;
a computer that receives prescription orders comprising at least one prescription;
a printer that prints a literature pack for at least one prescription order;
at least one loading station that loads the plurality of bottles into at least one of said plurality
of carriers;
at least one dispensing machine responsive to said computer that counts and simultaneously
dispenses pharmaceuticals into at least one of the plurality of bottles;
at least one transport device that transports said plurality of carriers with the plurality of
bottles through said at least one dispensing machine, said at least one dispensing machine
dispensing the pharmaceuticals of the prescription orders received by said computer into
the plurality of bottles in said plurality of carriers; and
at least one order consolidation and packing (OCP) station comprising:
an assembly mechanism for assembling said plurality of carriers;
a bottle removing mechanism that removes the at least one of the plurality of bottles
corresponding to the prescription order from at least one of said plurality of carriers
for subsequent packing of the at least one of the plurality of bottles in the shipping
container;
an first indicia reader that electronically reads indicia on each of said at least one bottle,
and a second indicia reader that electronically reads indicia on the literature pack
corresponding to the prescription order, said first and second indicia readers ensuring
that each of the at least one bottle is inserted into the shipping container with the
corresponding literature pack; and
a bagging machine that receives the at least one of the plurality of bottles corresponding
to the prescription order from said bottle removing mechanism and inserts the at least
one of the plurality of bottles and the literature pack corresponding to the prescription
order in the shipping container.

156. A system for filling at least one order, comprising:

at least one order consolidation station configured to provide at least one customized literature pack having a first identifier and containing printed customized literature relating to the at least one order and comprising patient specific information associated with the at least one order, and configured to receive at least one bottle having a second identifier and containing pharmaceutical products, wherein the at least one bottle is associated with the at least one order, and wherein the at least one order includes at least one order for the at least one bottle;
one or more readers that read the first and second identifiers to confirm order contents, and
a bagging machine configured to provide a shipping container that receives the at least one customized literature pack and the at least one bottle, to thereby fill the at least one order.

157. The system of claim 156, wherein said at least one order consolidation station comprises said one or more readers.

158. The system of claim 156, further comprising:

at least one bottle carrier, each bottle carrier having an array of locations and configured to store each of the at least one bottle in one of the array locations; and
at least one pill dispenser that simultaneously dispenses pills into two or more of the at least one bottle.

159. The system of claim 156, wherein at least one of the first and second identifiers comprise a bar code.

160. The system of claim 156, further comprising a printer to print at least one label for a shipping container for each of the at least one order, wherein the label is printed with patient specific shipping address information.

161. The system of claim 158, wherein each of said at least one bottle carrier has an identifier that can be read to indicate what prescription bottles are positioned in the array locations.

162. The system of claim 158, wherein each of said at least one order consolidation station further includes an error detection system configured to reject a defective shipping container.

163. The system of claim 158, wherein each of said at least one order consolidation station further comprises:

an assembly mechanism for assembling said at least one bottle carrier; and
a bottle removing mechanism that removes one or more bottles corresponding to a
prescription order from at least one of said plurality of carriers for subsequent packing of
the at least one of the plurality of bottles in a shipping container.

164. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 163 wherein said bottle removing mechanism is responsive to a computer in determining which of the bottles is packed in the shipping container.

165. The prescription dispensing and packing system as recited in claim 163 wherein each of said at least one order consolidation station further comprises a carrier buffer that temporarily stores one or more of said at least one bottle carrier before they are transferred to said turntable.